IGNATIEFF WARNS AGAINST TAX CUTS, PG 6

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TORONTO • MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 2009 metronews.ca

World pg 8

Happy news amid global financial crisis

Canucks join celebrations for Obama

INAUGURATION The inauguration of the 44th U.S. president will see Canadians gather in theatres, school gymnasiums, churches and offices nationwide to celebrate Barack Obama as if he were one of their own.

Others will make the trek to Washington, D.C., to witness tomorrow's event.

For many Canadians, Obama's message of hope has struck a powerful chord.

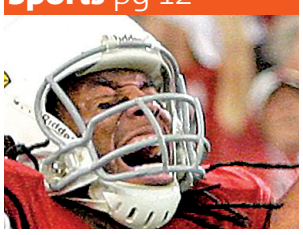
"A lot of our students are new to Canada and their families are struggling financially," said Paula Chambers, principal of St. Thomas More Catholic elementary school in east-end Toronto. "For these children to see that a young man whose mother was a single mother, and who at one time was living on food stamps, was able to grow up to be president ... that gives them hope that their schooling is important."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Going Green pg 15

Climate, Net use linked

Sports pg 12



Cards, Steelers in Super Bowl

ShareYourViews
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ALEX BRANDON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bruce Springsteen performs at We Are One: Opening Inaugural Celebration in Washington yesterday.

Hope rings out at inaugural concert

WASHINGTON The world's biggest musical acts took to the stage yesterday at a massive outdoor concert on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

Still, the star who shone the brightest was Barack Obama, who enthralled a crowd of 500,000 with a brief message of hope.

"Anything is possible in America," the president-elect said at the end of the concert featuring U2, Beyoncé and Bruce Springsteen.

United States Presidential Inauguration

"I stand here today as hopeful as ever that the United States of America will endure; that the dream of our founders will live on in our time."

His remarks were met with roars of approval from the joyous crowd who were counting down the hours until Obama's inauguration tomorrow. The crowd represented a sea of humanity, made up of people of all ages, colours and nationalities, stretching from the memorial to the Washington Monument several blocks away.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Letting no can go to waste

Recycling project sees stores take back hazardous items

New homeowner Sarah Daly was in a quandary over where to dispose of her half-empty paint cans.

She knew she could — but shouldn't — throw the cans in the trash or her home recycling bin.

"We were at a loss of what to do with them," said the 33-year-old, who will soon learn she can take it to the store.

Later this week, Ontario residents will learn the details of a $28-million program that will take the headaches out of getting rid of such waste. It's part of a new program aimed at diverting more than 32,000 tonnes of household and hazardous waste from landfills over the next five years.

Ontario's Do What You Can program allows people to take back waste, such as paint and used non-rechargeable batteries, to participating home renovations stores. The program will later be expanded to include items such as aerosol containers, fluorescent light bulbs and switches that contain mercury, while a third phase will deal with waste such as contact cement and corrosive cleaners.

While the first phase of the recycling push began in July, it has taken time for Stewardship Ontario to get retail operations involved, Environment Minister John Gerretsen said. A news conference is planned for Thursday to announce expanded retail collection sites and the program's website.

In your area

- By clicking on the website dowhatyoucan.ca and plugging in their postal code or municipality, consumers can find out which products they can recycle and where.

The program's cost will be borne by the makers or importers of paints, engine coolants and batteries, for example. The companies pay fees to Stewardship Ontario based on the amount and type of materials they sell in the province. At least 330 firms, including Honda and Procter & Gamble, are now involved. The program does not cost the government a penny and not a cent from it will end up in government coffers, added Gerretsen.

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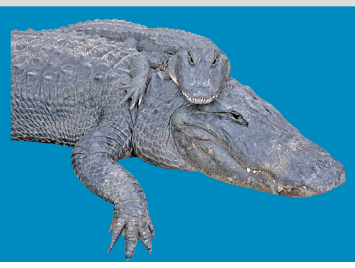
Two teens robbed in separate incidents at TTC subway stations

Two teens were victims of two separate TTC subway station muggings Friday. A 14-year-old boy was on the Glencairn subway station platform when he was approached by a male demanding cash at around 3 p.m., police said. About four hours later, at Main Street station, a man claiming to have a knife approached a 16-year-old and demanded cash, police said. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Local



Gator found in police raid

Police found more than drugs and guns in a high-risk takedown at a west-end home early yesterday — a four-foot-long alligator. Officers broke into the apartment in the Keele Street and Eglinton Avenue West area at 2:30 a.m. after two men and a woman inside refused to honour their search warrant. The trio were arrested, and seven guns, some crack cocaine and cash seized. Animal services was called to tend to the pet gator.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Tomorrow's Metro

Entertainment

Metro will let you in on what happened in Tatamagouche, N.S., the Week The Women Went — Season 2 of the CBC TV series.

metronews.ca

What's online today.

Video Canadians rally in support of Gaza ceasefire at **metronews.ca/canada**

Video Experts predict a big week for selling on the stock market at **metronews.ca/canada**

Video Ben Rycroft tackles the Canadian Soccer Association in the weekly It's Called Football show at **metronews.ca**

Video Omar Khadr's fate up in the air as Gitmo closure looms at **metronews.ca/canada**

Lotteries

Friday, Jan. 16: Lotto Super 7: 9, 11, 15, 16, 31, 39 & 47 Bonus 12; **Saturday, Jan. 17: Lotto 6/49:** 8, 12, 20, 28, 39 & 47 Bonus 10; **Sunday, Jan. 18: Ontario Pick 3:** 8 5 0; **Ontario Pick 4** : 6 5 6 7; **Encore:** 9979698; **Daily Keno:** 11, 12, 16, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 29, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 41, 47, 55, 58, 61, 62. These results are not official.

News in brief

CRIME Police are investigating the events that led up to a man walking into St. Joseph's hospital Saturday with a gunshot wound to the hand. Officers were called to the hospital at about 8 p.m., police said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CARLOS OSARIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

People sled down the hill yesterday at Howard Talbot park near Bayview and Eglinton.

Good news, bad news

Bone-chilling cold is gone, but more snow is in forecast

Toronto had barely escaped a deep freeze when it was hit with a big snowfall yesterday that delayed flights, shut down the Scarborough RT and snarled traffic across the city.

And Environment Canada is pouring ice-cold water on hopes for an early spring, predicting even more snow over the next two months.

The powder started falling across southern Ontario on Saturday and didn't let up until yesterday afternoon. Some parts of Toronto received more than 20 centimetres of the white stuff.

The higher temperatures, which climbed to –4 C yesterday after days of unseasonably cold weather, helped melt away some of the snow and slush.

Snowfall

- So far this season, Environment Canada's monitoring station at Pearson has counted nearly 115 centimetres of snow, as much as the city usually gets in an entire winter.
- At this time last year, for instance, 78 centimetres of snow had fallen. By the end of the winter, however, the city had received 194 centimetres, making it the snowiest season in 70 years.

While the snow tapered off, and meteorologists aren't expecting any more blizzards over the next few days, Environment Canada warns this winter will be unusually snowy.

The good news is the GTA will have some respite this week.

"Wednesday is the only day we'll get any appreciable amount of snow," Seifert said. "Otherwise, a fairly quiet week."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Rally participants skeptical about Mideast truce

A sense of celebration hung in the air at a rally supporting Israel in Toronto yesterday as Gaza entered a weeklong ceasefire, but there was unease behind the optimism as people on both sides of the dispute expressed doubt that one week would bring about any real change.

Hundreds of people descended upon a Yonge-Dundas square for a boisterous student-led demonstration.

But people both at the large pro-Israel rally and a small group across the street protesting Israel's actions in Gaza say they're skeptical that the ceasefire will change much of anything. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Critics left with sour taste over food plan

Toronto begins accepting applications for its new street food pilot project today, but some critics say the city shouldn't expect a stampede of potential vendors.

This spring, the city's "Toronto a la Cart" program will see up to 15 new vendors selling a variety of ethnically diverse foods for three years.

A panel of food experts will have a say over which vendors' selections are sold to the public.

Fees

- Potential new vendors and existing hotdog vendors face a $150 fee to submit applications. Approved ethnic food vendors face a $5,000 to $15,000 location fee for a permanent assigned spot to sell their food; healthy food vendors $1,000.

At the same time, a similar number of hotdog vendors already in business will for one year be permitted to offer new "healthy" snacks pre-selected by the city — veggie burgers, fruit salads, bagels and soup.

Applications are being accepted in North York beginning today until Friday noon, but some local entrepreneurs considering applying say fees are too high, and the regulatory hoops too onerous. About 50 people in a Facebook group have been airing complaints. One who attended an information session the city recently held to explain Toronto a la Cart found several attendees were new immigrants who expressed concerns about the required start-up capital.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Kidnappers take victims around the city
Four people were arrested Saturday after they held three men at gunpoint for more than 12 hours and took them around the city. Police arrested three men and a woman and discovered a loaded gun at the scene. Further searches turned up another gun and some drugs. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

A little off the top for luck

Boy's first ceremonial haircut follows 3,000-year-old Hindu tradition

Like father, like son. It's been that way for generations in the Jain family, where a baby boy's first haircut is an auspicious and joyous occasion.

And 39 years after Atul Jain had his long, black curly locks shorn and his head shaved in a 3,000-year-old Hindu ceremony, dozens of relatives and friends gathered to see his son Javeen's ritual tonsuring. The Toronto Star was there for the father's ceremony in 1970 and yesterday for the tiny tot's mundan sanskar.

"In this ceremony, it's believed that when a baby boy's head is shaved within the first year, he will be blessed with a long, prosperous and fulfilling life," said a beaming Jain before Hindu priest Dhirendra Tripathi began the religious ceremony.

Conducted in Sanskrit in the Jain's Whitby home, it included prayers and blessings for the nine-month-old boy, as well as offerings of flower petals to the planets. Javeen's father and mother, Kelvinder, participated along with his paternal grandparents, Swaran Lata and Vinod Chand Jain. His sisters, Jasleen, five, and Hrithika, four, watched proceedings closely.

CARLOS OSARIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Nine-month-old Javeen Jain takes part in the ritual called mundan sanskar. Shaving the boy's head is said to bring him a long and fulfilling life. Shaving Javeen's hair is barber Rocco Crocitto.

At the time of their father's mundan there were less than 50 South Asian families in Toronto.

"When we arrived 39 years ago, we knew almost everyone in the community," said Deepti Neto, a Jain cousin. Today, there are 1.26 million South Asians in the Greater Toronto Area.

During yesterday's ritual, all eyes were on longtime family friend and barber Rocco Crocitto, who was cool as a cucumber as he gave the tot a buzz cut with his clippers. Javeen sat calmly on his father's lap as family members clapped and cheered. The little boy appeared somewhat nonplussed by all the fuss.

Beads of sweat glistened on the barber's forehead after he massaged shaving foam on the boy's head and began giving him a clean cut with a straight razor.

Crocitto was horrified when he accidently nicked the tot when the little boy jerked unexpectedly.

"It's good luck," grandfather Vinod Chand Jain chimed in.

A few minutes later, a smiling Javeen returned to the ceremony wearing a traditional kurta or suit and a bandage.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Tress trivia

- Hair plays an important role in many cultures and religions. Some cut it while others grow it long for their faith. Among the latter are women of the Pentecostal faith, where long hair is a symbol of femininity, which women wear as a veil and "out of reverence to God," according to a 2008 report by The Houston Chronicle.

Watches provide timely comfort

Susan Frakas woke up in her Toronto home with a sinking feeling the day after the bodies of three New Brunswick soldiers killed in Afghanistan came home. She felt anxious and on edge.

Her son, Tim Day, has been in Afghanistan since Sept. 5.

"I felt I needed to talk to someone and get it all out," said Fracas.

She felt much better after calling the Toronto Military Family Resource Centre at Downsview Park and speaking at length to a counsellor — one of many services provided by the centre, a charitable organization that lives by fundraising.

"Fundraising is a big aspect with our organization. It's the only way we support military families from Oakville to Oshawa and Borden," says executive director Susan Tom.

A fat chunk of this fiscal year's goal of raising $30,000 to $40,000 by March 31 will come from sales of a special Afghan Mission watch.

"The campaign has been a big help," said Tom. "When you buy and wear that watch, it shows support for the troops who are overseas and their families who struggle with different emotions," she said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Features

- Simple in its appeal — it has a maple leaf in the middle, with Canada written at the top and Afghanistan at the bottom — the watch features raised gold-plating on the face and an alligator-style leather strap. The campaign started in September, and more than 800 watches have already been sold. It's priced at $65; the centre keeps $10 for each watch purchased.

News in brief

SCIENCE A Toronto study is proposing a bold new theory on the genetic inheritance of everything from eye colour to congenital illnesses: It's not all in your genes. Indeed, the inherited source of many diseases and physical traits may actually be traced to substances that coat and control genes, but are not DNA-based, a study out of Toronto's Centre for Addiction and Mental Health suggests. Those substances, known as "epigenetic" factors, cling to our DNA and act like switches to turn genes on and off in various parts of the body.

CRIME Toronto police are looking for two suspects, one claiming to be an FBI agent, after a teen was mugged Saturday night near Yonge and Bishop streets.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Adjunct professors at eye of York labour storm

Lykke de la Cour gets up weekdays at 4 a.m. She finds she writes her best lectures then; she's too tired at night.

She knows this from preparing hundreds of lectures over the past 15 years for more than 20 courses at York University about women and the disabled and health and law.

To her students, she is "Professor" de la Cour, but she is not a fully minted prof. Officially, she is an "adjunct professor" and belongs to York's booming ranks of faculty who have no tenure or long-term contracts. Instead, they must reapply for short-term contracts each January and wait till June to learn which courses they will teach in the fall.

Suddenly, they are at the eye of York's labour storm. Their bid for more job security is an issue steaming on the front burner. And their teaching presence — they already run more than half of undergraduate classes and York admits to relying more and more on these less costly part-time instructors — is key to restarting the campus engine.

They will be among 3,340 workers belonging to the Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 3903 that head today and tomorrow to a Downsview hotel to vote on York's latest offer in a secret ballot run by the Ontario labour ministry.

Jordy Cummings, a York graduate assistant, predicted union members will soundly reject the offer.

"Hopefully, then we can get back to bargaining and (the university) will realize that it's time to get serious," he said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

What happens next?

York University professor Ian Greene says ending the strike will be just the first hurdle in fixing the disrupted school year.

Greene, 60, is the Master of McLaughlin College, which gives him responsibility over the daunting task of providing extra and co-curricular activities to students at the school.

He said the plan is to have three weeks of fall term courses added to the year, followed by a condensed exam period, then 11 weeks of winter term followed by another 12 days condensed exam period just before the summer term starts.

Greene is concerned that most students have not been engaged during the strike and that will make it difficult for them to adjust when the disruption ends. He said the school now has a large collection of literature on academic labour relations the students can use as a first-hand educational tool.

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Disappearing ink eludes police

Thieves got away with $1.5 million worth of printer cartridges from a Richmond Hill warehouse. A Lexmark Canada employee showed up for work about 5 a.m. Jan. 6 and found nine skids, a truck and container were missing. The truck and container were found two days later. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Residents battle flour mill

Peter Orphanos has battled for years against the intrusion of a major milling operation into the environmentally-sensitive Credit River Valley of Mississauga.

The efforts of Orphanos and other citizens who live above the valley in the Streetsville area seemed to be making progress in June 2007 when Mississauga council unanimously approved a change in the official plan for the Kraft Canada Inc., flour mill site from industrial to residential/greenbelt.

That decision, while not forcing Kraft to move, prevents further industrial development there if the company decides to leave. It ensures preservation of valley land while allowing high density housing on top of the riverbank.

However, Kraft is appealing the council decision to the Ontario Municipal Board, which met on Jan. 12 and abruptly adjourned for two weeks while lawyers for the company and the city try to negotiate a compromise.

That has Orphanos, a retired elementary school vice-principal who serves on the city's environmental advisory committee and as chairman of the Sierra Club in Peel, extremely worried.

PAWEL DWULIT/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Peter Orphanos overlooks the area surrounding a Kraft Canada mill in Mississauga.

The 2007 decision was made after more than two years of consultation with the community, which solidly backed it, Orphanos said.

"The planning argument for the policy is strong. The impacts we have suffered here for 30 years are real," he said, referring to noise, dust and truck traffic neighbours have experienced.

The mill predates the homes, provides about 45 jobs and pumps millions of dollars into the economy, according to the company.

While a mill has been on the site since the 1830s, large-scale operations didn't begin until the late 1960s.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Jury acquits Hell Angels duo in hit man case

Two senior Hells Angels quietly said "thank you" to a jury after they were acquitted yesterday of hiring a hitman to kill a fellow biker.

Remond (Ray) Akleh, 46, formerly of the Hells Angels' Ottawa-based Nomads chapter, and Mark Cephes Stephenson, 45, president of the Oshawa chapter, then hugged crying members of their families and each other in a courtroom hallway.

"I just want to see my kids and hold them," said Akleh, a father of three, as he walked out of the courthouse surrounded by wet-eyed family members.

The jury reached its verdict yesterday morning on the fourth day of deliberations after three months of testimony.

"God bless them (the jury)," said Akleh, who was represented by lawyer Glenn Orr. "They've got a hard job to do."

The jury rejected the testimony of former Oshawa Hells Angel Steven Gault, who was paid more than $1 million by police for his work in an 18-month police operation that ended on Sept. 28, 2006, with the arrests of Akleh and Stephenson.

Gault told court he was recruited to be the hitman in the plot against Frank (Cisco) Lenti of the Bandidos Motorcycle club, which was never carried out.

For Stephenson, it was his first taste of freedom since being arrested at his Durham Region home early in the morning of Sept. 28, 2006. Akleh had been free on bail since February 2007.

Stephenson said he planned to spend the day celebrating with family, and watching the NFL playoffs. He smiled at the prospect of watching football on a 62-inch screen after being confined during the trial in a four-foot by four-foot cell.

Stephenson, who works as a millwright, praised the jury for not assuming they were guilty simply because they are Hells Angels.

"We're bikers, not criminals," Stephenson said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Plot

- Akleh and Stephenson had each been charged with murder conspiracy and counsel to commit murder for an alleged plot to murder Frank (Cisco) Lenti of the Bandidos Motorcycle club in the summer of 2006. The alleged murder plot was never carried out.

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Ban on smoking near parks OK'd

PLAN A plan to ban smoking within nine metres of Toronto playgrounds, wading pools or splash pads, won unanimous approval at the parks and environment committee Friday.

Under the proposal, which will go to city council this month, the city would put up signs designating the no-smoking zone at its 833 playgrounds. Enforcement would only be done if there are complaints. Violators could face fines of up to $305. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Avalanche death toll mounting

Treacherous avalanche conditions in British Columbia's mountains claimed two more snowmobile victims on the weekend. The deaths bring the total of fatalities attributable to avalanches to 15 this season. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

GG bids Haiti farewell

Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean concluded her trip to Haiti yesterday with a visit to an area struggling to turn the page on a devastating era. Farmers in Haiti's northwest described how deadly floods forced them to sleep for weeks on the tin rooftops of their neighbours' homes.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Iggy says budget better impress

Arguing that a recession is not the time to cut income taxes, the federal Liberals yesterday served notice to Prime Minister Stephen Harper that he risks his government if he goes ahead with across-the-board cuts.

Harper, whose Conservative government will stand or fall based on what's in the Jan. 27 budget, has said the economic rescue package must include tax breaks for middle-class average Canadians. The Liberals are opposed to making tax cuts the centrepiece of the budget, and interim leader Michael Ignatieff signalled yesterday the party is prepared to dump the Conservative minority

Yesterday, as he opened a two-day caucus meeting, Ignatieff renewed the threat to defeat Harper's government if the budget does not do enough to jump-start the economy and protect Canadians.

"This budget has three simple tests that it must pass," he said. "Will it protect the most vulnerable? Will it save jobs? And most important of all, will it create the jobs of tomorrow?"

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Interim Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff speaks during a Liberal caucus meeting on Parliament Hill in Ottawa yesterday.

Obama sparks mixed Canadian hopes: Poll

Most Canadians believe Barack Obama will improve the image of America around the world but many doubt he will be able to keep some of his biggest promises, a new poll has found.

A Toronto Star/Angus Reid survey found 79 per cent of Canadians believe the next president of the U.S. will succeed in boosting the battered reputation of his country around the globe, but fewer think he will be able to overcome some of the challenges to get him there.

27 The percentage of poll respondents that believe Obama will withdraw all combat troops from Iraq in 16 months.

"Although there seems to be a love affair going on between Canadians and Obama, we haven't been blinded to the magnitude of the challenges that he is facing," said Mario Canseco, vice-president of Angus Reid Strategies.

Respondents were optimistic about Obama's promise to close the U.S. military prison at Guantanamo Bay, with 49 per cent of respondents believing he'll succeed, 14 per cent believing he'll fail and 37 per cent not sure.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

AUDIT The Canada Revenue Agency is so inconsistent about the way it grants breaks to delinquent taxpayers there's a risk people will go "shopping" to tax offices for the best deal, an audit suggests.

OIL A proposed pipeline that would have brought western Canadian oilsands oil to Ontario and Quebec has been shelved. The effort by Enbridge has been put on hold indefinitely after it failed to win support from the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

East Coast to get more snow
New Brunswick will get up to 20 centimetres of snow today, with the Fundy coast getting up to 25 centimetres. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Khadr's fate unsure

In hearing rooms tomorrow morning at Guantanamo Bay, when U.S. courts on the mainland are closed, Omar Khadr's case will unfold.

Incoming U.S. president-elect Barack Obama faces a swarm of legal challenges and emotional and political high stakes in dealing with this notorious place, which has become a worldwide symbol of all that went wrong with the Bush administration's war on terror.

While it's widely anticipated that one of the new president's first acts will be to order this prison closed and halt the 21 war crimes trials the Pentagon is now pursuing, it was business as usual here this weekend.

Journalists, witnesses, court staff and five relatives of 9/11 victims were flown from Washington on the weekend. Security preparations are underway to transport Omar Khadr and the alleged 9/11 co-conspirators to their separate courtrooms.

Just what will happen tomorrow is uncertain. It was supposed to be the start of pre-trial hearings concerning Khadr's statement to interrogators. The military judge would be asked to decide if methods used during questioning were considered "coercive" or crossed the line into torture. The rules governing the military commissions permit the use of coercive techniques to extract statements, although exactly what that entails is not described.

No one seems to have a clear idea what it all means and even the prosecutors appeared hopeful that they could avoid the confusion. Late Friday, both the chief prosecutor and his defence counterpart appealed to the military judges for a delay in tomorrow's proceedings. Their request was denied.

What does seem almost certain is that Khadr will not be going to trial in a week to face charges of murder for allegedly fatally wounding U.S. Delta Force soldier Christopher Speer.

The Pengaton has also charged him with attempted murder, spying, providing material support for terrorism and conspiracy.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Khadr's future

- Omar Khadr, the youngest detainee at Guantamo, is a Canadian citizen arrested when he was 15.
- His trial, and his future, are uncertain with U.S. president-elect Barack Obama's upcoming inauguration.

News in brief

SCHOOLS Thousands of native children suffered sexual abuse in Indian residential schools, newly disclosed figures show. Several thousand more claims for sexual abuse at the hands of church and school officials have been filed over the last year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Pakistan says its troops killed 15 militants in raid

Pakistan's military says its security forces have killed 15 militants during a raid in a northwest tribal region where troops have been battling al Qaeda and Taliban insurgents. Fighting in the region has raged for months, leaving more than 1,700 insurgents dead. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Fans invited to do 'the wave'

As Obamamania reaches record levels, a Montreal-based website, www.jointhewave.com, is inviting fans the world over to do "the wave." Obama fans are urged to post videos of themselves doing the popular sporting event ritual to mark the inauguration of Barack Obama as president of the United States tomorrow.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cautious calm falls over Gaza

Hamas offered Israel an immediate weeklong truce yesterday, hours after Israel silenced its guns and grounded its aircraft, but the Palestinian group conditioned long-term quiet on a complete Israeli withdrawal.

Israeli tanks rolled out of Gaza yesterday, and infantry soldiers walked across the border to Israel, their guns and packs slung over their shoulders.

Hamas rockets peppered southern Israel ahead of yesterday's truce offer.

The withdrawal from Gaza left wide scenes of destruction in its wake, with buildings flattened, and dozens of bodies recovered from the rubble.

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said Israel would leave Gaza quickly if the ceasefire holds.

Canada welcomes ceasefire

- In Ottawa, Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon issued a statement welcoming the ceasefire.
- Qatar, the only Gulf Arab state that has ties with Israel, yesterday announced that it had closed Israel's trade office and ordered its staff to leave within seven days.

"We didn't set out to conquer Gaza, we didn't set out to control Gaza, we don't want to remain in Gaza and we intend on leaving Gaza as fast as possible," Olmert said at a dinner with the leaders of Britain, France, Germany and Spain.

He also expressed sorrow over the deaths of civilians in Gaza, calling them "hostages of the Hamas murders" and vowed to prevent a humanitarian crisis in the territory.

In Gaza, medical workers sifting through mounds of concrete said they recovered 100 bodies amid the debris.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canadians rally in support of Gaza ceasefire at metronews.ca/canada

United States
Presidential
Inauguration

Obama hailed on 'King Sunday'

BIRTHDAY The third Sunday in January, known as "King Sunday" in Atlanta after the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., easily could have been called "Obama Sunday" this year.

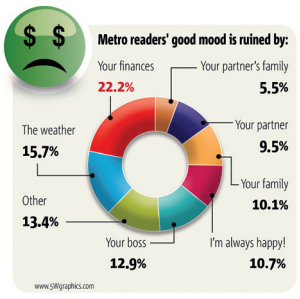
King's words again filled the pews and pulpits at black churches across the country on the eve of the federal observance of what would've been his 80th birthday. Only this time, they found new weight with Barack Obama's pending inauguration as the first black U.S. president. Many black preachers touted the moment — the 23rd federal observance of King's birthday falls on the eve of the inauguration — as a mark of America's progress toward a racially just society.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Crisis won't affect happiness: Expert

STUDY Happiness can survive the blows of financial crises, says Ruut Veenhoven, who has been studying happiness for more than 25 years.

"Whether the financial crisis has made people less happy, one can only tell when the crisis is over," said the director of the World Database of Happiness, a register of scientific research on the subjective enjoyment of life.



"It's not very likely because the previous economic crisis didn't have effects on happiness," the professor of sociology at Erasmus University in Rotterdam told Metro.

"I'm talking about the crisis between 1980 and 1982. That was a considerable recession with unemployment in the Netherlands increasing to half a million people.

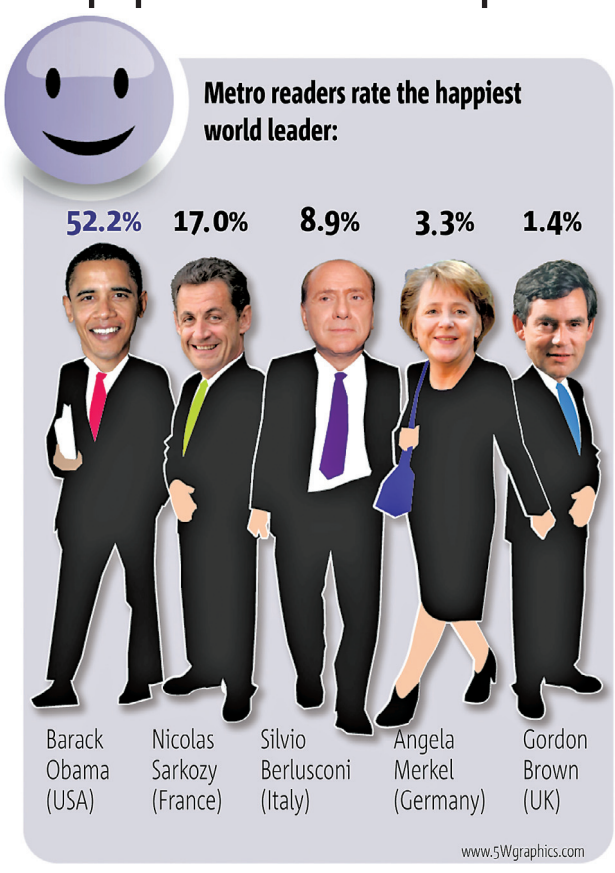
"In 1989, a couple of colleagues and I did research on how this crisis had a negative effect on the happiness of the average citizen. There was hardly any effect. People were a little more worried about their income, but not less content with their lives as a whole.

"The sale of tranquilizers didn't rise and doctors were not confronted with more patients with psychosomatic complaints.

"Apparently, mankind is strong enough to cope."

Veenhovens's research on the crisis in the 1980s is published in the book Did The Crisis Really Hurt?

METRO WORLD NEWS



JIM MONE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Army Specialist Gwen Beberg is reunited with Ratchet the border collie in Fridley, Minn.

Soldier reunited with Iraq puppy

RESCUED U.S. Army Specialist Gwen Beberg has been reunited with Ratchet, the puppy she bonded with after saving him from a burning trash pile in Iraq. Beberg returned to her Minneapolis home on Saturday.

She and another soldier rescued the then-four-week-old puppy in May and an animal rescue group arranged his trip to Minnesota in October.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Putin painting fetches $1.4M

AUCTION A painting of a frost-rimed window in a traditional log hut by Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin has sold for $1.4 million at a charity auction in his hometown of St. Petersburg.

Moscow gallery owner Natalya Kurnikova, who bought the painting, said it could be the first and last painting of its kind.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

British photographer says Mugabe's wife attacked him
A British photographer said yesterday that the wife of Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe punched him repeatedly in the face after he tried to take pictures of her near a luxury hotel in Hong Kong. Richard Jones said he suffered at least 10 cuts to his face but did not require hospitalization. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jet lost power in both engines

Federal investigators said yesterday the flight data recorder of the US Airways jet that made a safe emergency landing in New York's Hudson River shows the aircraft lost power simultaneously in both engines.

Kitty Higgins of the National Transportation Safety Board also said that ice floes in the river were slowing the search for the missing engine.

It's believed to have separated from the crippled aircraft as the plane crash-landed in the river Thursday afternoon.

The damaged plane was hoisted from the river onto a barge Saturday night.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rome limits alcohol sales to cut down all-night partying

ITALY One for the road? No thanks, says Rome.

The Italian capital is limiting alcohol sales in neighbourhoods famous for their nightlife to tamp down on loud, all-night partying.

Under new rules that took effect Friday, no alcohol "to go" can be sold in bars, restaurants, supermarkets or other outlets after 9 p.m.

Starting at 2 a.m., the sale of alcohol is banned inside bars and restaurants, though discos are exempt.

These rules can be attributed to residents who have complained about the noise, as well as the new mayor, Gianni Alemanno, who was elected on a law-and-order platform.

Earlier this month, an American tourist was stabbed after a fight near Campo de' Fiori, the downtown piazza where hundreds go every night to party.

The ban remains in effect until March.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Outdoor cocktails

- Rome's mild temperatures and stunning sites form the perfect venue for an outdoor cocktail, and residents and tourists alike would buy drinks to sip them by Rome's famous Baroque fountains.

Pontiff to have his own Google channel with video

TECHNOLOGY The Vatican says Pope Benedict XVI is getting his own channel on Google.

It says the Vatican TV Centre and Vatican Radio are collaborating with Google on the project.

The Vatican's press office says texts and video of the Pope's speeches, as well as news about the pontiff, will be posted directly onto the channel.

It says more information will be given this week.

The Vatican began using its website widely to publish teachings and pronouncements under the late Pope John Paul II.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Comment & Views

Comment

Put on your boogie shoes

HineSight

Anne Hines

A while back I did a column on "wise things said by people who aren't me."

Given the success of this piece (someone mentioned that they'd read it), I now present: Wise Words, Instalment No. 2.

First up, playwright and style-slave of the Victorian age, Oscar Wilde, who, on his deathbed in the home of a friend, famously announced, "Charles, either these curtains go, or I do."

Wilde also said, "Fashion is merely a form of ugliness so unbearable that we are compelled to alter it every six months."

I would disagree with this entirely if it weren't for gladiator shoes and the 1980s. Also, the only way I'm going to make it onto anyone's best-dressed list is if Home Workers Monthly runs a "ratty bathrobe issue."

Next, it was historian and Harvard Prof. Laurel Thatcher Ulrich who said: "Well-behaved women rarely make history."

They do, however, get invited to dinner parties and asked to join book clubs.

Life's a trade-off, eh?

From an Old Chinese proverb: "It is better to light a single candle than to curse the darkness."

Cursing the electric company, however, is entirely OK.

Legendary actor W.C. Fields: "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again. Then quit. There's no use being a damn fool about it."

Words to live by. Particularly if you're: a) a person trying to get a date, or b) a national political party trying to get a majority.

Next, from an anonymous source: "No one in all society is so underrated, disregarded and underpaid as the plucky humour columnist." I just can't imagine who said this. It's got a ring of truth though, doesn't it?

Lastly, wise words from Fredrick Nietzsche. Nietzsche was born in Germany in the mid-1800s and undertook a career as a philogist. He abandoned this, possibly upon realizing that no one knew what the heck a philogist was. He then became a philosopher, somehow thinking this would be a more profitable career choice. Some guys can't win.

As a philosopher, Nietzsche offered such insights as, "Existence is an imperfect tense that never becomes a present." To which we can only respond, "Um … what?" He also said, "It is my ambition to say in 10 sentences what others say in a whole book." Clearly, this is a man who didn't get the concept of "royalties."

However, I forgive Nietzsche everything for saying, "We should consider every day lost in which we have not danced at least once."

It doesn't get any wiser than that.

Anne Hines is an author and humour writer. She has written three novels and one collection of nonfiction humour.

MICHAEL DE ADDER

Views

D.C. transit prepares for inaugural crowds

InTransit

Ed Drass

transit@eddrass.com

While GTA residents were toughing out super-chilly conditions last week, I've been at a transport conference in relatively balmy Washington, D.C.

The talk of the town is how to cope with disruptions caused by the inauguration of U.S. president-elect Barack Obama.

At first, officials expected up to four million people to attend tomorrow's inaugural parade and outdoor swearing-in ceremony. That estimate dropped quickly, although no one is certain how many will come.

Security and crowd-control measures will make it tough for downtown employees to get to work tomorrow. Major streets and bridges are to be closed and the Metro subway network — already badly overcrowded during normal rush hours — is expected to carry a record-breaking number of riders.

Alas, some Metrorail cars are as old as the 31-year-old subway system itself and break down regularly.

Nonetheless, Metro plans to operate rush hour service for 17 consecutive hours tomorrow and officials warn even that will not be enough.

Some subway stations will be closed outright and others will be entrance- or exit-only.

Commuter rail trains from adjoining states Maryland and Virginia are by reservation — and are sold out.

Despite worries the U.S. capital — no stranger to large public events — may be overwhelmed, let's keep things in perspective. At a seminar last week, transit officials from India described a massive backlog in urban rail infrastructure.

Transit users in both Washington and Toronto may complain of crowded subways and commuter trains, but Mumbai — a metropolis of more than 20 million people — is only now building its first metro line. Suburban railway trains there currently pack 16 people into each square metre. Sixteen. They say you cannot move your arms.

Even today, many riders hang out the doors or sit on the roof. On average, 10 people die every day in Mumbai from unsafe riding or crossing in front of trains.

Toronto-based transport writer Ed Drass covers transit issues every Monday.

Quick tip

- The TTC's new e-mail alert service was immediately tested last week when delays and shutdowns affected sections of the subway. Like GO Transit's popular e-bulletins, messages may arrive late — sometimes too late to be of use.
- There is a range of causes; authorities may keep silent while they figure out the cause of the problem in case it can be resolved quickly. GO Transit has also stated tardy messages may be due to cellular service providers. But sometimes a transit agency just fails to communicate; putting its efforts into resuming service and forgetting to keep passengers up to speed.

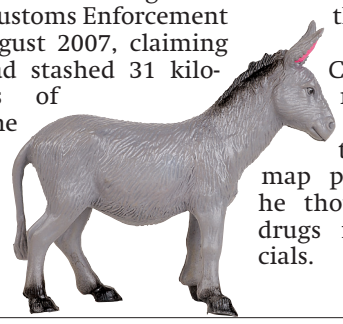
Worth mentioning

Dopey drug smuggler who asks U.S. customs for help gets 14-year sentence

A cocaine mule who lost his shipment and called U.S. customs officials for help has been handed a 14-year prison term by a U.S. District Court judge in Seattle.

Leroy Carr, of Federal Way, Wash., was convicted last October of intent to distribute drugs after being arrested near the Sumas border crossing leading into British Columbia.

Trial records show Carr called U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in August 2007, claiming he had stashed 31 kilograms of cocaine near the border, but when he returned he couldn't find the backpacks.



A news release from the U.S. Attorney's Office said Carr asked customs officers to issue a news release saying the government had seized the drugs "so that the organized crime group he worked for (in British Columbia) would not retaliate against him for stealing the drugs."

Two weeks later, a Boy Scout Ranger called officials to say he had found the drugs.

During his trial Carr claimed he never possessed the drugs, even though he drew a map pinpointing where he thought he left the drugs for customs officials.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quote of the Day

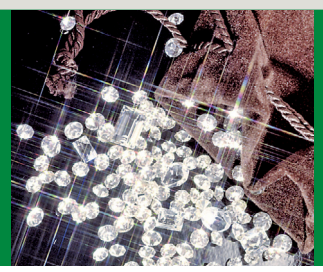
"There's a peace to (being married) and a sense of togetherness that we just didn't have before … it's so lovely."

— Actress Portia De Rossi commenting on her five-month marriage to TV talk show host and comedian Ellen DeGeneres. PEOPLE.COM

It's your turn to tell others what you think. E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: torontoletters@metronews.ca
Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number – street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

Reports say British government planning massive new bank bailout
The British government is preparing to guarantee billions in assets as part of a new bank bailout plan that could see even wider swaths of Britain's partly nationalized banking sector fall under government control, reports said yesterday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business



Diamonds lose their gleam

The economic slowdown has dulled the gleam of one of Canada's most luxurious exports, as northern diamond mines enact cost, production and job cuts in reaction to falling gem prices that are down about one-third since their high last August. Retail sales in Canada are fairly stable, but have dropped between 20 and 30 per cent in the United States. THE CANADIAN PRESS

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Changes to credit cards?

Risky customers may be cut off

Credit card companies are in a precarious position this year as consumers start to batten down the hatches and reduce their spending, while some face potential bankruptcy.

That could mean some noticeable changes with your Visa, MasterCard and American Express, from higher interest rates to a more aggressive chase against unpaid debts.

Michael Kon, an analyst at Morningstar in Chicago, said mounting job losses, and an increasingly dismal U.S. economy has left U.S. banks wary about handing out credit readily to consumers. Those attitudes are already permeating into Canada and should only worsen this year. "What we see is banks cutting credit lines, cancelling credit cards for risky consumers," Kon said. "We see quite a strong tightening wave across the industry."

"What we see is banks cutting credit lines, cancelling credit cards for risky consumers."
Michael Kon

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Russia,Ukraine reach gas deal

DISPUTE Ukraine will pay 20 per cent less than the European price for gas this year under a deal to settle the dispute that has drastically reduced supplies of Russian gas to Europe.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Business in brief

VIRUS A computer virus that may leave Microsoft Windows users vulnerable to digital hijacking is spreading through companies in the U.S., Europe and Asia. It has already infected close to nine million machines. Fortunately, however, it may be a dud. Finland-based F-Secure says the virus doesn't appear to be working as its designers intended. Microsoft issued a security update Tuesday to deal with the so-called "Downadup" or "Conficker" virus, which appears to be a new version of a bug that popped up in October.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SUBJECTS WANTED

Subjects are needed for a research study to see how consumption of dietary fiber from oats for 4 weeks affects blood cholesterol levels.

This study will be conducted by Glycemic Index Laboratories Inc.

Participants must be 35 to 70 years of age, non-pregnant and have above average blood cholesterol levels.

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Henderson, Rua win; Kang falls at UFC 93
Dan Henderson and Mauricio (Shogun) Rua celebrated wins at UFC 93 in Ireland Saturday while Canadian Denis Kang was left to wonder what went wrong in his UFC debut. The Vancouver native tapped out in the second round after falling into a chokehold from his opponent, Alan Belcher. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

Bronze for Canuck duo

Alex Harvey, right, and George Grey, left, won a bronze medal in yesterday's cross-country World Cup race in Whisler, B.C. Harvey, from St-Ferreol, Que., caught Russia's Alexei Petukhov at the finish to earn Canada's first men's World Cup medal in team sprint.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA

Steelers, Cardinals Super Bowl bound

NFL ROUNDUP

Steelers 23, Ravens 14

Pittsburgh's dominating defence beat the Baltimore Ravens 23-14 in the AFC championship yesterday and put the Steelers back in the Super Bowl for the second time in four years.

Santonio Holmes scored on an electrifying 65-yard catch-and-run in the first half, and hard-hitting safety Troy Polamalu returned an interception 40 yards for a clinching touchdown with 4:24 remaining for the Steelers (14-4).

Pittsburgh earned a matchup with the NFC champion Arizona Cardinals in two weeks in Tampa, where they will meet in the championship game. Jeff Reed kicked three field goals for the Steelers, who will be seeking their sixth Super Bowl title.

GETTY IMAGES

Troy Polamalu of the Steelers celebrates his game-clinching touchdown in the fourth quarter yesterday.

Ravens running back Willis McGahee was carted off the field late in the fourth quarter after taking a hard hit to the helmet by Pittsburgh safety Ryan Clark.

The Ravens said he had "significant neck pain" but movement in his arms and legs.

CARDINALS 32, EAGLES 25

That's not a mirage rising out of the desert, folks. It's the lowly Arizona Cardinals soaring to their first Super Bowl.

Yes, the Cardinals, founding members of the NFL, but historically among the most dysfunctional of franchises, finally have joined the big boys. Capitalizing on Larry Fitzgerald's three first-half touchdown receptions, then coolly marching downfield to Kurt Warner's eight-yard scoring pass to rookie Tim Hightower with 2:53 left, they beat the Philadelphia Eagles 32-25 yesterday for the NFC championship.

"That drive where we scored a touchdown at the end of the game and took seven minutes was really the difference," Arizona coach Ken Whisenhunt said.

If the Cardinals, the first No. 4 seed to host a conference championship game, were supposed to be thunderstruck by their surroundings, they instead responded like playoff veterans.

Sure, they blew a 24-6 halftime lead. But then the 37-year-old Warner, a Super Bowl MVP from almost a decade ago with the St. Louis Rams, engineered a precise, 72-yard drive to win it with his fourth TD pass of the day.

He finished the comeback with the eight-yard pass to Hightower, then hit Ben Patrick for the two-point conversion.

Blown out by the Eagles 48-20 on Thanksgiving, Whisenhunt's team looked completely different in its first title game since 1948.

GETTY IMAGES

Larry Fitzgerald reacts to Arizona's victory yesterday.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SUPER BOWL XLIII

Sunday, Feb. 1

Steelers VS Cardinals

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PARTICIPANTS NEEDED FOR A STUDY OF TREATMENT OF SEASONAL DEPRESSION

The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, in affiliation with the University of Toronto, is looking for volunteers for a study of light therapy and negative ions in the treatment of seasonal depression (also called seasonal affective disorder).

The study involves completing questionnaires and having 4 weeks of treatment with either a light therapy or negative ion generator device.

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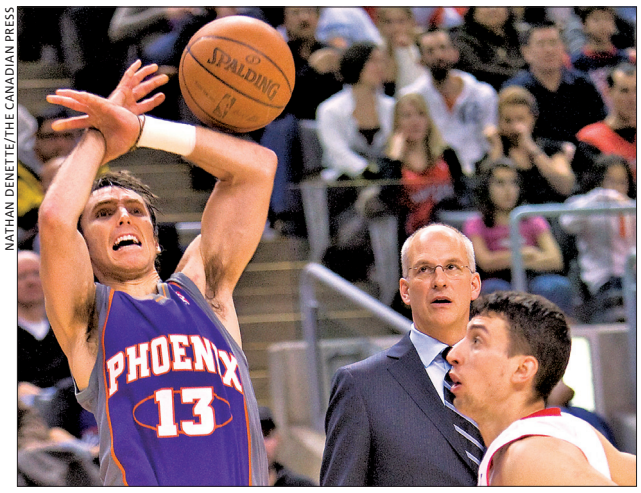
O'Neal, Marion rumoured in trade talk
The South Florida Sun-Sentinel reported Saturday that there has been talk between the Raptors and Heat on a Jermaine O'Neal-for-Shawn Marion swap. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Nash spreads it around

NBA RESULT

Suns 117 **Raptors** 113

VS


NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jay Triano watches Steve Nash bobble the ball under pressure from Roko Ukic yesterday. Nash finished with just nine points, but doled out a season-high 18 assists as Phoenix beat the Raptors 117-113.

Steve Nash was at his charitable best yesterday afternoon.

The Victoria native dished out a season-high 18 assists as the Phoenix Suns downed Toronto 117-113, sending the Raptors to their fifth straight loss.

Amare Stoudemire led the way with 30 points for the Suns (23-15), who ended a two-game losing streak in the first of a six-game East Coast road trip.

Jason Richardson added 17 points, while Shaquille O'Neal and Matt Barnes had 16 each. Nash finished with nine points.

Anthony Parker had a team-high 26 points for the Raptors (16-26), while Joey Graham added a career-high 22 and Chris Bosh had 20. All five Raptors starters finished with at least 15 points. Toronto was forced to play a nine-man rotation after forward Jason Kapono came down with flu-like symptoms and centre Jermaine O'Neal was ruled out just before tip-off to rest his injured right knee. Starting point guard Jose Calderon (hamstring) sat out for the eighth time in nine games.

Looking to mix things up, the Raptors went with a starting rotation featuring Parker at the point and Graham at shooting guard. The duo played well, but Toronto fell just short against a Suns team that can still play at a breakneck pace despite the departure of offensive-minded coach Mike D'Antoni in the off-season.

Nash received a raucous cheer from the Air Canada Centre crowd during pregame introductions, then shared a hug with his former national team coach Jay Triano prior to tip-off.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Sports figures descend on D.C.

United States
Presidential
Inauguration

Hall of Fame college basketball coach John Thompson calls it "the greatest thing to happen to African-Americans since the Emancipation Proclamation," and there's no way he's going to miss it.

"It hasn't been able to seep in," the longtime Georgetown coach said in an interview. "I will have tears in my eyes when that boy raises his hand."

From Tiger Woods to Muhammad Ali, Dave Winfield to Dikembe Mutombo, a sports world that has paid more attention to politics than usual the last few months wants to be part of the party when Barack Obama is inaugurated as the nation's first black U.S. President tomorrow.

"The Emancipation Proclamation freed our bodies," said Thompson, referring to Abraham Lincoln's landmark document that sought to free slaves in the rebellious south in 1863.

"I know I'm going to cry ... but I want to be there."
Dikembe Mutombo

"This emancipation frees our minds to know there's no limits as to what you can accomplish. Sometimes the mental incarceration is worse than the physical."

Thompson, who has a ticket to the swearing-in ceremony, endured racial taunts when he first fielded a predominantly black team at Georgetown. He later became the first African American coach to win the NCAA title and boycotted two games in 1989 to protest an NCAA rule he felt would hinder minority athletes.

By contrast, Woods has been as apolitical as they come, keeping his views firmly to himself during his rise to become the world's top golfer. It was only after Obama's election in November that Woods expressed his excitement over "a person of colour in the White House." During the fall, professional athletes in locker-rooms across the country said they were paying more attention to the presidential race than usual, in part because of the nature of Obama's candidacy and in part because of eight polarizing years under outgoing President George W. Bush.

JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES

Tiger Woods speaks in front of the Lincoln Memorial yesterday during the We Are One: The Obama Inaugural Celebration in Washington.

Houston Rockets centre Mutombo, who's been politically active in African causes for more than a decade, will attend the inauguration with wife Rose, oldest son Reagan, and his father Samuel, who is flying to Washington from the Democratic Republic of Congo, where Mutombo was born.

"We have the son of an African man, not from a second or third generation, from the first generation. That brings so much joy and so much pride for me," said Mutombo, who had breakfast with Obama in Washington just before the then-Illinois senator officially announced a run for the presidency. "Now I can tell my son, 'You cannot tell me you can't be the next Bill Gates or the next senator.' I'm feeling good about my children," Mutombo said.

Boxing legend Ali, who turned 67 Saturday, is scheduled to be an honoured guest at tonight's Bluegrass Ball, a celebration sponsored by the Kentucky Society of Washington. Also tonight, Hall of Fame baseball player Winfield is narrating a documentary on the Negro Leagues that will air on the MLB Network, coinciding with the Martin Luther King day holiday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports in brief

FIGURE SKATING Patrick Chan of Toronto is the undisputed new king of Canadian men's figure skating. The 18-year-old overcame a stumble early in his program yesterday to demolish the competition and capture his second consecutive singles title to wrap up the Canadian figure skating championships. Skating to Rachmaninov, Chan scored 165.93 points with his free program, and 254.82 overall — a Canadian record under the new judging system. Vaughn Chipeur of Calgary held onto second, scoring 134.41 for his free program for 206.30 overall. A day earlier, Joannie Rochette of Ile-Dupas, Que., captured the women's singles title, coming from behind to beat Cynthia Phaneuf. THE CANADIAN PRESS

SCOREBOARD

NFL

SUNDAY'S RESULTS
AFC CHAMPIONSHIP
Pittsburgh 23 Baltimore 14
NFC CHAMPIONSHIP
Arizona 32 Philadelphia 25
SUPER BOWL XLIII
FEB. 1 AT TAMPA, FLA
Pittsburgh vs. Arizona

NBA

SUNDAY'S RESULTS
Phoenix 117 **TORONTO** 113
Miami 104 Oklahoma City 94

NHL

SUNDAY'S RESULTS
Pittsburgh 3 N.Y. Rangers 0
Calgary at Colorado
Phoenix at Edmonton
Columbus at Vancouver

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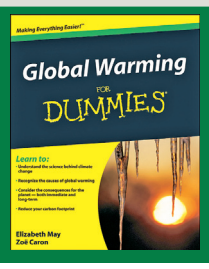
Going Green



Facts and fiction

Get the lowdown on global warming from the new book Global Warming For Dummies. Authors Elizabeth May (Green party leader) and Zoë Caron explain the ins and outs of global warming and sort out the facts from fiction. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: MIKE DEREZYCKY, MIKE.DEREZYCKY@METRONEWS.CA

Web of pollution?

Study links Net use and global warming

Don't tell Al Gore, but surfing the web may also pose an inconvenient truth when it comes to hastening our environmental ruin.

That's among the findings of a recent study by Harvard physicist Alex Wissner-Gross on the environmental impact of Internet usage — a revelation that has, somewhat ironically, generated significant buzz in some quarters of the web.

In a yet-to-be published study, Wissner-Gross found that roughly 20 milligrams of carbon dioxide are released into the atmosphere for every second that an average website is viewed. That includes the energy used both on the surfer's end, including the electricity needed to run individual computers and the networks they connect to, and the energy used to create and host the content itself.

"At an individual surfer scale, the impact is not that large — about 50 per cent larger than a human exhaling," Wissner-Gross said recently.

"But in aggregate, for websites that get a lot of traffic, it can be substantial and it can be thousands of pounds of CO2 per month."

Though web surfing is not often thought of as a polluting activity, Wissner-Gross noted that a 2007 study by U.S. firm Gartner Research found the global IT industry generated about the same amount of greenhouse gases as the airline industry, which is about two per cent of total global emissions.

Wissner-Gross says he wasn't prepared for the swift reaction that his study generated.

That included a sharp response from Google after a British newspaper cited his study's findings and singled out the search engine giant as a key offender — namely because it directs individual search queries to multiple servers simultaneously in the interest of generating speedier responses.

Ron Dembo, the CEO of Zerofootprint, a Toronto company that runs carbon offset projects, said Internet users need to realize their actions can come with a significant environmental cost, and they should think twice before entering a "frivolous" search query or streaming a goofy YouTube video.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Search

- Google claimed it would take more than 1,000 queries on its search engine to equal the greenhouse gas emissions generated by an average car driving one kilometre.

Nominate top green citizens, businesses

Nominations are now being accepted for the Green Toronto Awards — the City of Toronto's environmental awards of excellence. The City of Toronto, in partnership with the Green Living Show, invites residents of Toronto to nominate the companies, organizations and individuals who are helping to green Toronto.

The Green Toronto Awards ceremony will be hosted by Mayor David Miller, Deputy Mayor Joe Pantalone and world-renowned environmentalist and actor Ed Begley Jr. on April 23.

The deadline for nominations is Feb. 27 at 5 p.m. For more information, visit www.toronto.ca/green-torontoawards.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

News in brief

TEMPERATURE It may not seem like it right now, but the world really is getting warmer. In fact, the U.S. National Climatic Data Center says it appears 2008 was the eighth warmest year on record, tied with 2001. The centre says preliminary calculations show the world's average temperature in 2008 was almost half a degree Celsius above the 20th-century average of 13.9 C. The ranking means that all of the 10 warmest years on record have occurred since 1997. NASA, which uses a slightly different method of calculating temperatures, has rated 2008 as the ninth warmest on record. The climate centre says that since 1880, the annual combined global land and ocean surface temperature has increased at a rate of half a degree Celsius per decade and the rate has increased over the past 30 years. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Organic bananas may help Costa Rican workers

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Hope, change for climate

Tories to harmonize plan with one proposed by U.S.

Don't tell Canada's environment minister about "Hope" and "Change," the rallying cries of Barack Obama's election victory.

In the coming months, Jim Prentice must steer a complex proposal to essentially harmonize his government's much-criticized climate change plan with the one proposed by the Obama administration. The result will be a North American market for trading greenhouse gas emissions credits, giving companies the incentive to cut their carbon footprint.

United States Presidential **Inauguration**

To do that, Prentice will have to change considerably the Tories' environment blueprint and hope the hoopla over Washington's re-engagement in the global warming fight will bring the Conservatives the breathing room they have been denied for the last three years.

"The election of Mr. Obama and the determination and the clarity with which he has spoken on climate change really is a fundamental change in terms of the situation," Prentice said recently.

"I think it's fair to say that we are now in a position where the policy framework we're talking about as Canadians and the policy framework the new president has spoken about are very consistent."

Prentice believes Obama's America has come around to the Tory way of thinking on climate change.

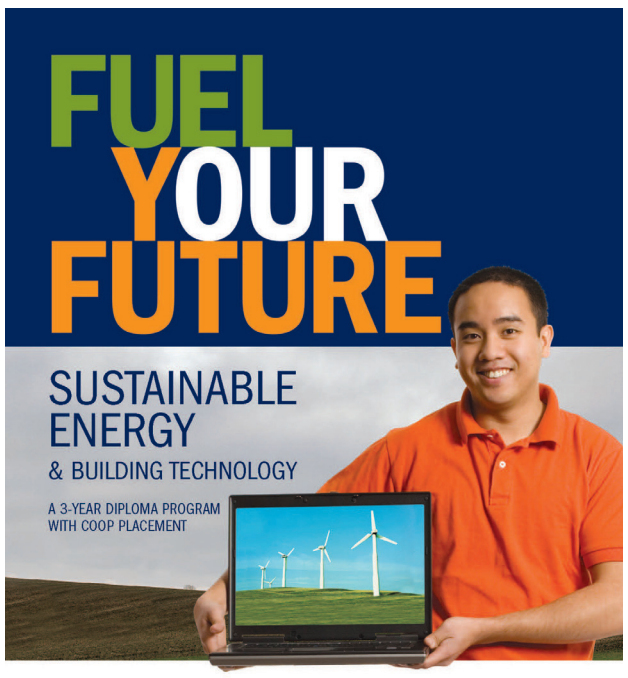
But faced with a new U.S. administration that is stacked with climate change fundamentalists — people on a first-name basis with former vice-president Al Gore — it will be up to Ottawa to find religion.

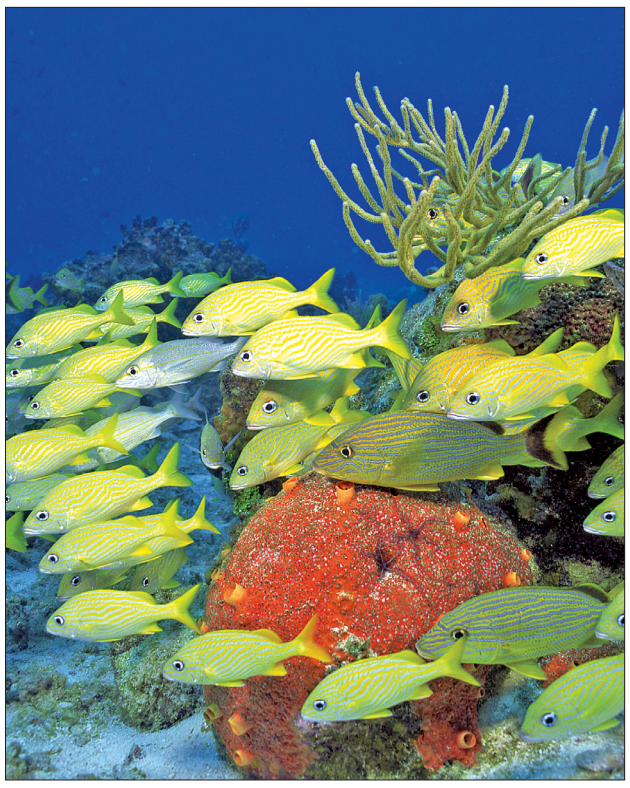
The Obama team includes the likes of retired Marine Gen. James Jones, the proposed national security adviser, who touts the primacy of energy security and is well connected in Alberta's oilsands. But it appears more weighted with appointees like climate czar Carol Browner, who dubbed U.S. President George W. Bush's team "the worst environmental administration ever."

Obama's energy secretary nominee, Steven Chu, is a Nobel-prize winning physicist, a sign science will regain supremacy over politics when it comes to issues such as climate change.

Watch for the Harper government's conversion to global warming orthodoxy that includes more stringent goals for cutting emissions, scrapping "intensity targets" — a measure that allows overall emissions to rise — long before the 2020 date it had planned, and signing on with some of the widely accepted standards that have left Canada isolated internationally.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE





A new study found that fish waste helps neutralize carbon dioxide levels in oceans.

Fish waste may aid marine environment

The world's oceans are getting help controlling harmful acid levels from an unseemly source, according to a new study that found fish waste plays a key role in neutralizing carbon dioxide in the marine environment.

> **"It's going be critical that we understand how much carbon dioxide the oceans can absorb."**
> Pat Walsh, marine biologist

Canadian scientists discovered that when fish drink seawater they excrete calcium as calcium carbonate — a chalky substance that can make seawater more alkaline and diminish the carbon dioxide in the water.

The unusual finding is helping researchers understand the marine carbon cycle and how nature works to reduce CO2 levels that can raise sea temperatures and harm sea life.

"It's going be critical that we understand how much carbon dioxide the oceans can absorb," said Pat Walsh, a University of Ottawa marine biologist who co-wrote the study that appears in the journal Science.

"What we've done is taken another step forward in understanding another piece of that oceanographic puzzle and how the oceans can absorb CO2."

The teams of researchers from Ontario, British Columbia, the United States and the U.K. discovered the bulk of the world's fish species, excluding sharks and rays, produced the carbonate to counter the salt they ingested in seawater.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Scientists, Inuit differ on fate of polar bear

Canada's polar bears are not teetering on the brink of extinction and don't need the alarmist rhetoric coming from some of the world's biologists, an Inuit expert said Friday at a one-day summit to discuss the fate of the arctic mammals.

While scientists warned vanishing sea ice and over-hunting means two-thirds of the iconic predators could be gone within 50 years, the people who have shared "a personal relationship" with polar bears for thousands of years say the threat is exaggerated.

"The current population is stable. It is not constructive to exaggerate the situation," said Gabriel Nirlungayuk, director of wildlife at Nunavut Tunngavik in Rankin Inlet.

"The Inuit share our land with the polar bear. We use the polar bear as a resource. It is important for our diet and our culture. We respect the polar bears. It is in our legend and we want to continue preserving this species."

Some 50 years ago, Nirlungayuk said there were only about 8,000 polar bears in Canada. Now, he said there are just more than 15,000.

But some scientists say polar bears won't be around for long unless bold action is taken to curb climate change, over-hunting and industrial activity in the North.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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UOIT and Durham anticipate application boom
Because of the cooling economy, both the University of Ontario Institute of Technology and Durham College expect more applications for their fall programs. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

Athletics upgrade

The University of Victoria's board of governors has approved preliminary planning and a funding feasibility study for renovations to the school's aging sports facilities and the construction of a new athletics complex. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS DUNLOP, DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

It's all in (her) genes

OddJobs

Diane Peters

In 1981, when Cheryl Shuman joined the staff at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children, she was one of only two fully trained genetic counsellors in the entire country.

Today, the 54 year old heads a staff of 14, and is the program director for the masters programs in genetic counselling at the University of Toronto, one of four such programs in Canada. Her first job was south of the border, as no one was using genetic counsellors here yet.

The entire profession is quite new. It was created in the 1960s in the U.S. when doctors found they needed someone to help them educate pregnant women about the risk for genetic conditions like Down's Syndrome. Shuman first read about the profession in a newspaper article in 1969, when she was in her last year of high school. After finishing a science degree at the University of Toronto, she enrolled in the masters program for genetic counselling at Sarah Lawrence College in New York, one of just a few schools offering such a program in the 1970s.

At school, Shuman learned about the science of genetics, and also took numerous counselling courses that dealt with many issues.

When she started at the Hospital for Sick Children nearly 30 years ago, Shuman worked in the prenatal program. Now, her clinical hours are devoted to families whose children have genetic disorders that make them grow larger than expected and, as a result of their genetic mutation, are also at higher risk for developing tumours.

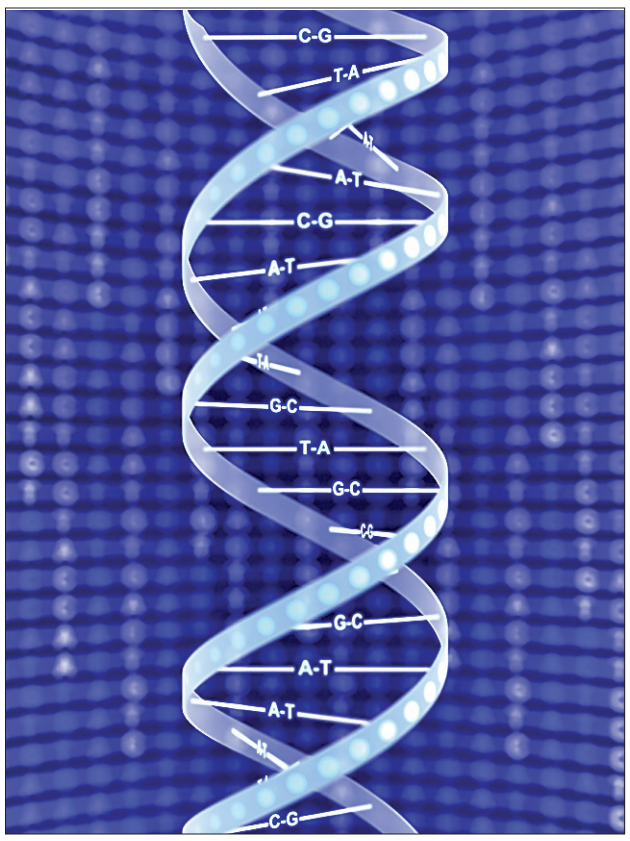
While a doctor on her team does the physical examinations, Shuman takes a family history and orders blood tests. She then helps families interpret the results of the genetic tests, discuss how they'll cope if the child is diagnosed, and talk about risks for other family members. "We demystify everything and help people contextualize the information within their own families," she says.

With almost every new client, Shuman checks the latest medical literature to make sure she's completely up-to-date. Genetic research is making new discoveries constantly.

The Lowdown

Job title: Genetic counsellor
Salary: $65,000 to $85,000
Education: Masters degree in genetic counselling
Best part of the job: "Working with the families, learning from them, and learning about the science."
Worst part of the job: "Delivering bad news. And the paperwork."

Diane Peters once hawked magic pens at the Canadian National Exhibition. She's now a writer and part-time journalism instructor.



Genetic counsellors work with kids with metabolic problems, sex chromosome mutations and cancer.

Inspiration coming on a dime

When the going gets tough, the tough get more creative, a new survey suggests. Forty per cent of marketing and advertising executives polled said campaigns become more innovative when budgets are lean. Twenty-six per cent felt that tight spending had no effect on creativity levels.

The national study was developed by The Creative Group and conducted by an independent research firm. It is based on 250 telephone interviews with advertising executives randomly selected from the 2,000 largest advertising agencies and senior marketing executives randomly selected from the 2,000 largest companies.

Advertising and marketing executives were asked, In general, do you think advertising and marketing campaigns become more or less creative when budgets are lean?

"In a challenging economic climate, businesses rely on their marketing teams to develop campaigns that resonate with consumers who are more selective in their spending," said The Creative Group's Megan Slabinski. "Firms that lack the resources to support traditional marketing initiatives may be willing to go out on a limb and try something different."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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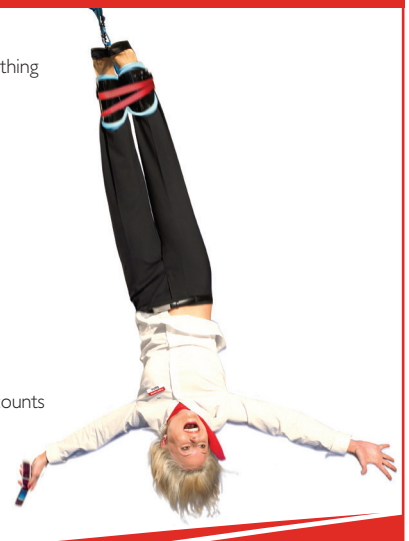

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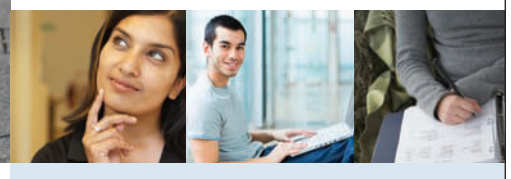

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Metro Workology exclusive: Curtain Call

Don't miss Curtain Call, Metro's exclusive feature series in the Workology section. In the realm of death there are some interesting, lucrative and mysterious career opportunities; we will be digging up the stories for you, so check for Workology on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and Metronews.ca/work as well.

Preserving dignity for eternity

Arranging director Joseph Peters and funeral director Melissa Machado share a workload at Toronto's Humphrey Funeral Home.

Curtain Call

BRIAN COULTON
for Metro Canada

On one episode of acclaimed HBO series Six Feet Under, Melissa Machado remembers watching one fictional mortuary worker morbidly engaging in a discussion with the body he was embalming on his table. Amid surgical tools and cosmetics, the body shockingly began to talk back.

After that, Machado says people began asking her if she ever talked to the bodies on her embalming table.

"They have to sell it, right?" says Machado, 29. "People look at my job and there's always that myth that goes along with it. It's really not what it is on TV."

Machado is a funeral director at Toronto's Humphrey Funeral Home and A.W. Miles Chapel. In a given week, she says she handles the remains of about five recently deceased individuals.

From initial disinfection of the body, through its preservation, to its restoration, it's Machado's role to ensure the body is given the same respect in death as it had in life.

"I do all the embalming, the dressing of remains, the casketing of remains, the (cosmeticizing) of remains, the ordering of supplies, ordering of caskets and articles as such to go along with that," she says.

Machado admits perfectionism is her greatest downfall. "My biggest struggle is that I never want to stop. I just keep striving to do better," she says. But Machado's meticulousness is warranted by the responsibility absolved of her by Humphrey arranging director, Joseph Peters, 41.

"I wouldn't say that's a learned trait at school. Compassion is something you have to acquire."
Arranging director Joseph Peters

While funeral directors at some other homes are responsible for both embalming and directing funerals, at Humphrey, tasks are divided. Although he has filled Machado's shoes over his 21 years in the business, Peters now acts as the face of funerals, meeting with families and handling processional operations.

What the pair does have in common, however, is the background that brought them to Humphrey. Both Peters and Machado are graduates of the Funeral Service Education program at Toronto's Humber College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning, the province's only institution other than Collège Boréal in Sudbury that offers training in the field.

The two-year program involves one year of academic learning in medical sciences, humanities and funeral-specific courses. The second year places students directly in funeral homes, where they are expected to complete a full internship. After college, graduates must be certified by the province by writing a test comprised of multiple choice and written questions, plus perform an embalming in front of a certified director.

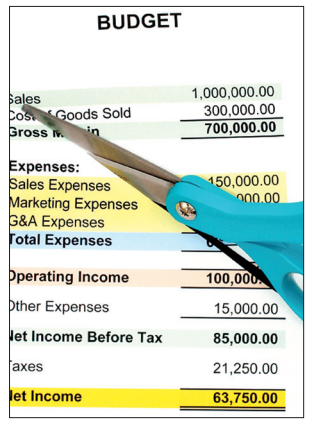
But despite official requirements, Peters says patience and compassion are requisite for all funeral directors due to the standard of respect shared by the industry.

"You have to not necessarily embrace these people and hug them and hold them but you need to be there for them … I wouldn't say that's a learned trait at school. Compassion is something you have to acquire."

For more of the Curtain Call exclusive series check the Workology section Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays or stop by Metronews.ca/work

Inspiration doesn't stop for the economy

When the going gets tough, the tough get more creative, a new survey suggests. Forty per cent of marketing and advertising executives polled said campaigns become more innovative when budgets are lean. Twenty-six per cent felt that tight spending had no effect on creativity levels.



Slashing the budget doesn't necessarily mean cutting creativity, a survey shows.

The national study was developed by The Creative Group and conducted by an independent research firm. It is based on interviews with employees from 2,000 advertising agencies.

Advertising and marketing executives were asked, "In general, do you think advertising and marketing campaigns become more or less creative when budgets are lean?"

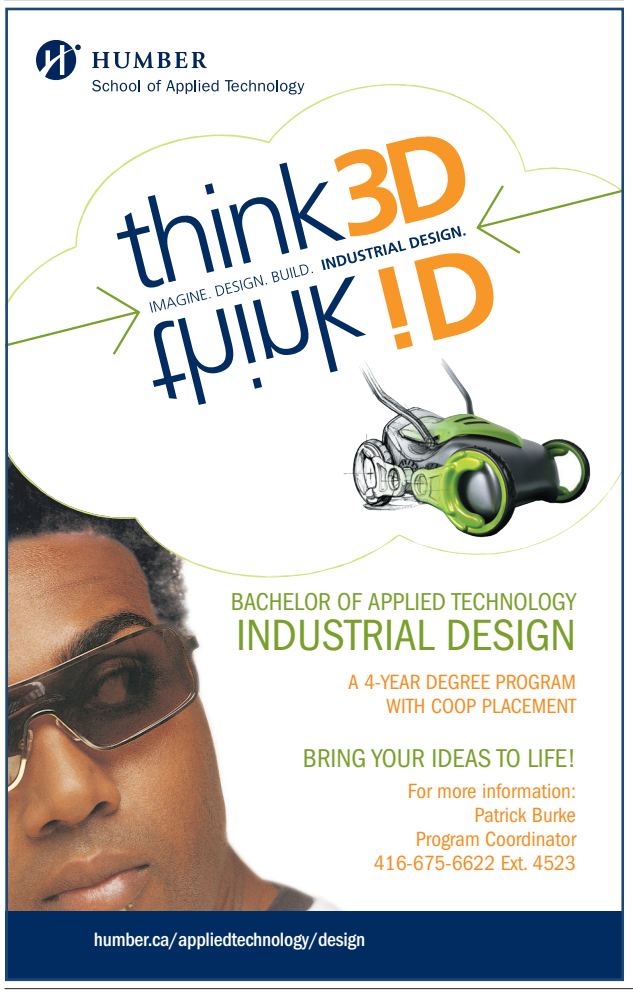
"In a challenging economic climate, businesses rely on their marketing teams to develop campaigns that resonate with consumers who are more selective in their spending," said Megan Slabinski, executive director of The Creative Group. "Firms that lack the resources to support traditional marketing initiatives may be willing to go out on a limb and try something different."

Slabinski noted, however, that not all belt-tightening fosters creativity. "Our research shows that tight deadlines are a top source of creative blocks," she said. "Consequently, marketing teams that are stretched too thin may have trouble generating quality concepts."

The Creative Group offered the following five tips for promoting creativity among employees:

- **FIND THE FOCUS.** Help staff members prioritize projects so they have sufficient time for the most important tasks. Eliminate less critical duties, or delegate them to other personnel.
- **SURROUND YOUR TEAM WITH IDEAS.** Ask staff to post any designs, artwork or quotes that they find inspiring on a wall from which everyone can draw inspiration.
- **BRAINSTORM IN THE MORNING.** A separate survey by The Creative Group indicated that the morning is the most creative time for a majority of professionals, so hold meetings intended to generate ideas in the early hours.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



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To go for co-op, or not to go for co-op

JOSEPHINE LIM
for Metro Canada

Three years ago, Cindy Huang was accepted into the University of Toronto's management co-op program on their Scarborough campus. She was looking to gain experience in her field and earn money while she was at it.

She'd soon find out there was more to the co-op program than she expected.

When it's time to choose universities, picking between a co-op program and a regular one is a difficult decision. The job experience and money you can gain are good incentives, but it does come with its cons.

For Huang, one thing she doesn't like is the application process. Her program's policy requires her to complete 25 initial job applications, only in her field of study.

It also states that if a student rejects two or more offers without good reason then they are unable to apply to any more positions offered by the co-op office during that term.

"You will probably get a job, but maybe not the job you want," says Huang. "Some of the jobs available are bad and no one wants it."

Not only that, but she's also required to go to all of her interviews.

"Most of the time you need to give up your lecture and go for an interview," says Huang. "Even though you have exams and you want to study you can't."

On the other hand, Alison Kuepper, a co-op field coordinator at the University of Waterloo, says having a lot of interviews is actually a pro and part of the learning process.

Despite the cons, Huang does like that co-op helps her work toward her future career.

"If you're not in co-op and you search for a job it's hard to find a job that matches your future career," she says.

Ming Qu, a third-year system design engineering student at the University of Waterloo, chose to go there because of its co-op program.

However, it turned out to be a bad situation for him. He had issues during his work term at a software company in downtown Toronto with his co-worker. It got to the point where he became disinterested in his position, yet had to endure it for four months.

At the University of Waterloo, coordinators have available information about the placement and the general opinion of the work environment. Qu checked this beforehand, but he says sometimes it doesn't help.

"There's really very little (you can do) because you can't really tell until you start working," says Qu. "You can't tell what you like, even from other people's opinions."

In a situation like this, Kuepper says this is where her job her comes in. She suggests that the student talks to the employer about the situation, but it should be brought up with the co-ordinator first.

Even with his experience Qu says he still thinks co-op is well worth it.

"At school you have to be good academically, but in the workforce you have to have very good communication and on top of that, organization," says Qu. "In school if you know the stuff you don't need to study as much and you can be lazy, but all of that has to be tidied up when it comes to work."

Co-op fee

- There is a co-op fee usually and for Cindy Huang it's about $400 each semester.

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Pete Wentz and Ashlee Simpson guest on CSI
Real-life husband and wife Pete Wentz and Ashlee Simpson have signed up to play Bonnie and Clyde-type wannabes on the CBS drama CSI:NY. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Entertainment

Star expecting

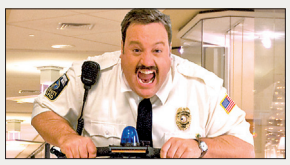
Rachel Griffiths, who stars on ABC's Brothers & Sisters, is adding another baby to her brood. The mother of two is pregnant with her third child.

PEOPLE.COM

EDITOR: DEAN LISK, DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Box office



Mall Cop is the No. 1. film.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theatres:

1. **Paul Blart: Mall Cop:** $33.8 million US
2. **Gran Torino:** $22.2 million
3. **My Bloody Valentine: 3-D:** $21.9 million
4. **Notorious:** $21.5 million
5. **Hotel for Dogs:** $17.7 million
6. **Bride Wars:** $11.8 million
7. **The Unborn:** $9.8 million
8. **Defiance:** $9.2 million
9. **Marley & Me:** $6.3 million
10. **Slumdog Millionaire:** $5.9 million

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Networks pay for coverage

Television networks paid more than $5 million US for exclusive rights to show events surrounding President-elect Barack Obama's inauguration.

That includes yesterday's Lincoln Memorial concert and the Neighbourhood Ball where Beyoncé will serenade the new first couple. Nearly half the money, $2.5 million, will be paid by HBO.

The cable network broadcast yesterday's concert — featuring U2, Bruce Springsteen, Stevie Wonder and others — live.

Obama's inaugural committee said the Walt Disney Co. is paying $2 million to show tomorrow's Neighbourhood Ball on ABC and for a kids' concert today on The Disney Channel.

MTV is paying $650,000 for a Youth Ball that will be shown worldwide.

"The whole idea here is for millions and millions of people to be a part of this and open it up and be accessible," said Jim Margolis, who is helping to put the events together for Obama's team.

"And the way to do that is to put it on television."

The networks will pay the licensing fee to the production company RK Denver, not the inaugural committee.

Margolis said it would cover a third of the cost of the television productions, with the inaugural committee covering the rest. Participating artists are performing for free.

Besides Beyoncé's serenade of Barack and Michelle Obama's first dance of the night, the centrepiece Neighbourhood Ball will include entertainment from Jay-Z, Mariah Carey, Alicia Keys, Shakira, Sting, Faith Hill and Maroon 5.

The press pool will be allowed to cover Obama's remarks and the first dance, otherwise the event is all ABC's. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

United States
Presidential Inauguration

Valentine a tribute to earlier horror classics

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

My Bloody Valentine 3-D
Director: Patrick Lussier
Stars: Jensen Ackles, Jaime King
Classification: 18A
Rating: ●●●

REVIEW I'm not sure why it came as a shock to me that I actually enjoyed My Bloody Valentine 3-D.

After all, I have a fondness for the gratuitous horror genre of the early '80s and since this is a revamped version of one such low-budget slasher pic, why wouldn't the nostalgia tweak a sense of fun? Toss in some stunning digital 3-D technology and bring on the pickaxe-flailing psychopath, I say!

A shocker about a murderous stalker who devastated a small mining town called Harmony, Valentine picks up 10 years after the psychopath is thought to have died. Guess what? He's back and nobody knows who's hidden behind the killer's mask. Could it be the duplicitous sheriff (Kerr Smith) or a young heir (Jensen Ackles) who has coincidentally returned to shut down the mine?

As much as this film is counting on the gimmickry of 3-D to fill seats, director Patrick Lussier (Dracula 2000) manages to avoid hanging himself solely on the gag and instead constructs a suspenseful homage to those earlier horror flicks while keeping the killer's identity hidden just long enough to carry the simple plot.

Lussier never takes the scares too seriously and captures campy, over-the-top dialogue and gratuitous, gory death scenes designed to maximize the stunning effects — there's nothing quite like seeing a head cut in two by shovel in digital 3-D. Sure, this Valentine is not for the faint of heart, but to paraphrase another's sage-like words — those who like it, will like it a lot.

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Swayze released from hospital
Patrick Swayze has been released from the hospital one week after checking himself in with pneumonia, his publicist said Friday. **MSN.COM**

Calling all models

Casting tour kicks off for Canada's Next Top Model

JOSEPHINE LIM
for Metro Canada

This month, young women will have a chance to strut their stuff and work the catwalk at Canada's Next Top Model's first regional casting tour, in this, their third cycle.

CTV is holding casting calls in Vancouver, Edmonton, Halifax, Montreal and Toronto for females who are between the ages of 18 to 23 and are at least five-foot-eight. They also need to be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada.

"Well, we thought about (the casting tour) in cycle one and cycle two when the show was younger. We just looked at the logistics of trying to do that and we felt it was a bit much to do," says Sheila Hockin, executive producer of the show.

"Now that the show is going into its third cycle, we're maturing a little bit."

She says anyone can make it onto the show, but the competition is stiff.

This season's applications have been moved online at model.ctv.ca and Hockin says they've already received double the applications from past seasons. On top of that, there will be the casting calls.

As for who they're looking for, they are searching for a model who can make it far in the industry, she says. "What we're looking for ideally is a girl who does a great job of representing Canada as a Canadian model in this country, but who also has the physical qualities and the personal qualities that will take her into the international marketplace," says Hockin. "We're looking for the next Evangelista."

At the casting calls, she suggests model wannabes really put their personalities up front.

"I think that there's not much anybody can do about their natural, physical being. It's either photogenic or it's not," says Hockin. "If you have to work a little bit harder to be outgoing then make that extra effort at the open casting call because you want to stand out, not as somebody you're not, but as a strong version of yourself."

She also suggests everybody to bring their best friends with them, but warns they could end up becoming your competition.

"Apparently that happens fairly frequently," she says.

Strike your pose

- Open auditions will be held for Canada's Next Top Model in Toronto on Jan. 23 at Fairview Mall (1800 Sheppard Ave. E.)

GETTY IMAGES

Jay Manuel will be returning for the next season of Canada's Next Top Model. For details visits model.ctv.ca.

Entertainment in brief

FASHION Rio de Janeiro closed its main fashion event of the year with less attention to the clothes than the model — a transgendered actress. Patricia Araujo received a standing ovation after parading along the runway for the Complexo B brand late Friday to end the weeklong event in a city that delights in shocking the prudish with each year's Carnival celebration. Complexo B designer Beto Neves said he invited Araujo to amaze the public. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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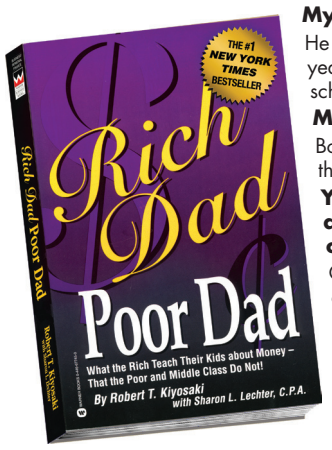

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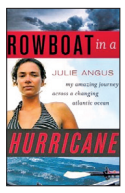
The lowdown on staying alive

Survive!

Author: Les Stroud
Publisher: HarperCollins
Price: $21.95 (Paperback)

Survival, thank heavens, is a subject we're far more likely to encounter in a dramatic work than in real life. But for those do-or-die moments when you need to start a fire on a deserted island, brave a bone-chilling blizzard or forage for dinner in the middle of a hurricane, Les Stroud of Survivorman television fame has got you covered.

In Survive!, he presents detailed tips and helpful accompanying photos on everything from building an appropriate shelter to finding something edible. He also discusses the psychology of survival, and how the right mental state can keep you alive.

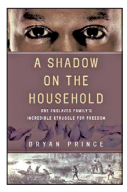


Rowboat in a Hurricane

Author: Julie Angus
Publisher: Greystone Books
Price: $22 (Paperback)

Canadian couple Julie and Colin Angus not only crossed the Atlantic Ocean in a rowboat, but survived two hurricanes in the process. Rowboat in a Hurricane, Julie's account of the 10,000-kilometre journey, details the climactic challenges along the way as well as encounters with all sorts of unique critters, such as the frigatebird and a giant sea turtle.To her surprise, the oceanic whitetip shark, once common to the waters they crossed, didn't put in an appearance — a sign of environmental ravage. Science and intimate exchanges are combined this exciting, engaging account.

BookPicks



A Shadow on the Household

Author: Bryan Prince
Publisher: McClelland & Stewart
Price: $32.99 (Hardcover)

In mid-19th century America, former slave John Weems had one wish: for the nine members of his family to survive, together. He'd been able to buy his own freedom, but when the family's master died, profit-hungry descendants decided to separate and sell the family members. Weems, unable to raise funds to buy them from slave traders, watched as his loved ones were dispersed. But the family members tried in their own way to reunite with John, including his daughter Ann Maria, who used the Underground Railroad to find liberty in Canada.

BRIAN COULTON/
FOR METRO CANADA

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SHEA WALSH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

From left, actor Wesley Snipes, director Spike Lee and director Anton Fuqua attend a Sundance party on the weekend.

Spike's finally at Sundance

The timing always was off for Spike Lee and the Sundance Film Festival, which had never managed to land a movie from the maverick who has been at the vanguard of independent cinema for 25 years.

So it's appropriate the film finally bringing Lee to the top indie showcase has its roots in the Sundance Institute's theatre lab, where the Tony Award-winning rock musical Passing Strange was developed.

Lee's Sundance premiere came Friday with his dazzling take on Passing Strange, crafted from the musical's final Broadway performances.

The director behind such films as Do the Right Thing, Malcolm X and Inside Man has debuted films at Cannes, Venice and other festivals, but he and Sundance previously had been out of sync.

"It's because of ... where the festival is in the schedule. January never works out for me when I shoot," Lee, 51, said. "I've never had something that's been available in January."

Passing Strange is the semi-autobiographical creation of musician Stew, who developed the project with musical partner Heidi Rodewald and Annie Dorsen, director of the stage play. With Stew as combination narrator, band leader, stage manager and puppeteer for the characters, the film traces the odyssey of a young black man who breaks with his mother's adherence to church and family and seeks to reinvent himself overseas.

He progresses from pot-smoking choir rebel and acid-tripping punk rocker in his home town of Los Angeles to free-spirited bohemian in Amsterdam and finally to cultural icon in Berlin, where he finds musical success by "passing as ghetto," exploiting a south-central L.A. background he never really experienced.

Lee first saw Passing Strange when it was playing off-Broadway, then several times on Broadway.

"I was knocked out. It was great," Lee said. "I knew nothing about Stew and Heidi. It was just 'Hey, there's this show. Check it out.' I was amazed by it."

Approached by one of the play's producers to do a film version, Lee thought about shooting it as a full cinematic adaptation, but ultimately wound up doing it as a filmed play, keeping the staging and set design intact. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vulcan, Alta. lobbies to host premiere of Star Trek movie

FILM An attempt by residents of Vulcan, Alta. to beam in the world premiere of the new Star Trek movie remains in a holding pattern, but the captain of the mission remains optimistic the quest will succeed.

The town with a population of 1,942 has already developed itself as a tourist attraction focusing on the birthplace of Star Trek's beloved Mr. Spock. After word that filming on the next Star Trek movie was about to begin, Trekkies in the community southeast of Calgary initiated their effort to go where no small Canadian town has gone before.

Vulcan's tourism co-ordinator says she's still communicating with executives with Paramount Canada. Dayna Dickens says Paramount hasn't said no but hasn't said yes either. She says a location for the premiere of the movie, which focuses on Mr. Spock and Capt. James T. Kirk's early days, likely won't be announced until about a month before the May 8 release date.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

McQueen biopic in the pipeline

Plans are underway for a new Hollywood movie about the life of late screen legend Steve Mcqueen based on the 2008 biography of the actor, according to Variety.com. FEMAILEFIRST.CO.UK

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Polanski slammed

A Los Angeles prosecutor says fugitive director Roman Polanski has no right to a hearing on a motion to dismiss his 31-year-old sex case because he refuses to appear in court.

Prosecutor David Walgren said in newly filed documents that Polanski flouted the law when he fled to France to avoid sentencing for the statutory rape of a 13-year-old girl.

He said the director has no right to a hearing until he submits to the court's jurisdiction.

He added that the now-45-year-old victim, who wants to speak at the hearing Wednesday to urge dismissal of the case, should not be heard unless Polanski appears.

Roman Polanski

Polanski's lawyer says the director has no plans to ever return to the United States but claims the case can be heard without him.

If Polanski chose to attend the hearing, he would be immediately arrested.

Walgren said little has changed legally since the day in 1978 when Polanski failed to appear in a Santa Monica courtroom for sentencing.

"The defendant ignored a lawful and valid court order to appear in court and instead chose to flee to the comforts of France," he said.

"It would be a farce for this court to review the case when it has no jurisdiction over the defendant."

Polanski, the director of such film classics as Chinatown and Rosemary's Baby, won the 2002 directing Oscar for his Holocaust-themed film, The Pianist.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Grievance filed against Piven

BROADWAY The producers of Speed-the-Plow have filed a grievance with Actors' Equity Association, the stage actors' union, against Jeremy Piven for abruptly leaving the Broadway revival last month. The actor quit the David Mamet comedy less than two months after it opened to favourable reviews at the Ethel Barrymore Theatre in New York. Piven's doctor said the 43-year-old actor was unable perform because of high levels of mercury in his system, possibly caused by eating large amounts of raw fish. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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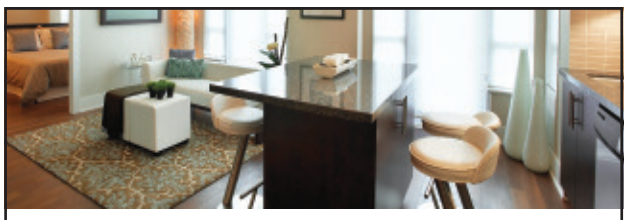

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Mayer on TV
Singer John Mayer has landed his own variety TV show. The guitarist is planning a pilot episode for CBS. Network president Nina Tassler said. "It'll be a music variety sketch show." FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Bidding on Battlestar

IntelleVision

TOBY CANHAM/GETTY IMAGES

The real prize, however, was probably the red backless dress worn by Number Six, played by ex-model Tricia Helfer.

THE GEEK GARAGE SALE: So were you shocked by Friday's return of Battlestar Galactica?

Thrilled, bummed out, disappointed, confused? It's one down, nine to go — not including The Plan, the Edward James Olmos-directed movie, due to air after the final episode, which is actually set sometime during the first season, so it doesn't really count toward the show's finale. And then there's Caprica, the prequel series scheduled to debut next year, but let's not get ahead of — or behind, as the case may be — ourselves.

Word also came down this weekend that Matt Weiner has finally signed a contract that puts him at the helm of two more seasons of Mad Men, which will hopefully be as far as he's willing to take the show.

I've been gritting my teeth hoping that Ronald Moore and the rest of Galactica's creators wouldn't make that often invisible slip into hokey junk before wrapping up the series, and now I've got to worry that Weiner will pull off a decent denouement for his show and avoid the temptation to keep a steady gig. I'd like to think that both shows, in the end, will underline the case for limiting the lifespan of a TV series to four seasons at the absolute maximum, though in a perfect world two seasons should be enough.

Fans who, like grieving relatives or the lovelorn, can't let go, were probably bleeding their bank accounts this weekend at the auction of the show's costumes, props, sets and design drawings held in Pasadena, Calif., where you could pick up a Cylon Resurrection Tub (lot 799, estimated at $2,500-$3,500 US), a full-sized Viper (lot 347; $50,000-$60,000) or Adama's desk and accessories (lot 752; $6,000-$8,000.) The budget-conscious could settle for the pen Gaeta used to stab Baltar (lot 441; $400-$600, complete with dried stage blood), while you'll be a star at the next comic con with either an unnamed Viper pilot uniform (four lots from small to XL; $2,000-$3,000) or Kara Starbuck's flight suit (lot 111; $10,000-$15,000.)

The real prize, however, was probably the red backless dress worn by Number Six, played by ex-model Tricia Helfer (lot 260; $10,000-$12,000), and probably only suitable for a very lean size one who's been spending a fair bit of time in the gym. Or a very willowy and extravagant transvestite whose tastes run to Darth Vader and not Marlene Dietrich.

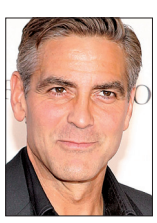
Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

In brief

STATEMENT Oprah Winfrey broke her silence Friday about former guest Herman Rosenblat, saying she's "very disappointed" in his now discredited story about meeting his future wife in a Nazi concentration camp. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Oprah Winfrey

PEOPLE Ellen DeGeneres, who made it her mission to snare actor George Clooney for her daytime television show, finally has him on board. DeGeneres had conducted a "George Watch '08" campaign to get Clooney. Her theme this year was "George Clooney Is Mine In '09." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS


George Clooney

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TO		Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
1/19/09	primetime	265	353	2	TVO	Time Team (N)		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		Midsomer Murders		To Build a Nation		Agenda-Paikin
		211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	House "Painless" (N)		24 (HDTV PA) (N)		Captain Cook: Obsession		News (N)
		215	343	4	OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere Il	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
		210	302	6	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Little Mosque	Sophie (N)	Being Erica (HDTV) (N)		CBC News: The National		The Hour
		214	344	7	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		The Bachelor (N)				True Beauty (N)		News (N)
		212	313	8	CTV	etalk	Hollywood	Big Bang Th	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Corner Gas (N)	CSI: Miami (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
		218	345	11	E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	*The Last Templar* (2009, Adventure) Mira Sorvino.				Momma's Boys (N)		News (N)
		137	763	13	TFO	Panorama		Dans le secret des pierres		*Sitcom* ★★ (1998, Comédie) Evelyne Dandry.			Les Gens de...	Professionels
		-	-	14	-	Cold Case "Fireflies"		News (N)		News (N)		Two/Half Men	King	Where-I Go
		213	326	15	SUN	Scrubs	George Lopez	Funniest Pets	Funniest Pets	One Tree Hill (HDTV) (N)		To Serve and Protect		Becker
		-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	Big Bang Th	How I Met	Two/Half Men	Worst Week	CSI: Miami (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
		-	385	17	NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Superstars of Dance The dance competition continues.				Momma's Boys (N)		News (N)
		-	386	18	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	The Bachelor (N)				True Beauty (N)		News
		219	346	20	ACH-B	Instant Star	TMZ (N)	Gossip Girl (HDTV) (N)		Paris Hilton's My New BFF		Paris Hilton's My New BFF		News (N)
		-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy (N)	Two/Half Men	House "Painless" (N)		24 (HDTV PA) (N)		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
		-	388	61	PBS	News-Lehrer	Time Goes By	Antiques Roadshow (N)		The Story of India (N)		The Story of India (N)		Business Rpt.
		297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	Gossip Girl (HDTV) (N)		One Tree Hill (HDTV) (N)		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men
		296	654	331	SBK	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dr. Phil (HDTV)		WBZ News (N)	'70s Show	Frasier	Frasier	Punk'd
		298	653	332	TLA	Jamie Foxx	Wayans Bros.	My Wife-Kids	According-Jim	Friends	KTLA News	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Gossip Girl (N)
	news	502	390	26	NW	CBC News	Newman	The Hour		CBC News: The National		Doc Zone "Omar Khadr"		National
		500	500	33	CNN	From MLK to Today (Live)		Campbell Brown: No Bias		Larry King Live (Live)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV) (Live)		
		509	504	79	CNB	Asia Squawk Box				Conversations: Michael Eisner		On the Money		Mad Money
	sports	405	417	22	net	Hockeycentral	NHL Hockey Carolina Hurricanes at Toronto Maple Leafs. (HDTV) (Live)					Sportsnet Connected		Hockey Central
		400	400	30	TSN	That's Hockey!	Strongest Man	NBA Basketball Phoenix Suns at Boston Celtics. (HDTV) (Live)					Tennis: Australian Open	
		411	457	58	OLN	Bounty Hunter	Dakar Rally	Survivorman (N)		Mantracker		Bounty Hunter	Dakar Rally	Survivorman
		417	406	81	SC	Trackside	NASCAR Pre.	SuperCars	SuperCars	My Classic Car	My Classic Car	Barrett-Jackson		Trackside
	family	551	542	25	YTV	Scorpion	Prank Patrol	Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Zixx Level	Falcon Beach		Mystery Hnt.
		554	544	45	TEL	Totally Spies	Total Drama	6teen	6teen	Misadventures	Futurama	American Dad	Robot Chicken	Life's a Zoo
		556	540	51	FAM	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
	cable variety	602	567	27	W	Will & Grace	Friends	How Clean	Kim	Love It or List It		Save Us-House	Smart Cookies	Maxed Out
		570	580	29	MM	Meet Barkers	Meet Barkers	Instant Star	Instant Star	MuchTopTens		MuchNews	The NewMusic	MuchVibe
		615	520	31	A&E	Intervention "Brittany"		Intervention "Kristen"		Intervention "Casie" (N)		Paranormal	Paranormal	Paranormal
		700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	Se Forte Maestro		Distretto Di Polizia		Raymond	Raymond	George Lopez
		571	581	36	MMM	mmmtop	Revival	Listed (Part 2 of 2)		Where You At	Back In	Don't Forget the Lyrics!		Don't Forget
		575	583	38	CMT	All About (N)	All About	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	CMT Star: Pets
		616	521	39	SHO	The Outer Limits		Kink in Hair	Kink in Hair	Kenny-Spenny	Rent-A-Goalie	Name Is Earl	Testees	House
		620	523	40	BVO	Hot Dance	Dance With Me	Raising the Bar		Crossroads of Rock N' Roll		Bravonews	McLauchlan	Law & Order
		601	562	41	SLC	Til Debt-Part	Rich Poor	Til Debt-Part	Til Debt-Part	Tabatha's Salon Takeover		Tim Gunn's Guide to Style		ET Canada
		522	506	43	HIS	NCIS "Once a Hero"		Battle 360		Massacre at Verrieres Ridge		NCIS "Once a Hero"		Crime Stories
		625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Joan Rivers: Before Melissa		Daily Show
		600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	For Rent	Income Prop.	Property Virgin	House Hunters	Ambrose Price	Petal Pushers	Holmes-Homes
		294	529	47	TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	Black in America (HDTV)				Welcome to	Welcome to	Family Guy
		576	582	49	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		*Boycott* ★★★ (2001, Docudrama) Jeffrey Wright, Terrence Howard.					News Special	News Special
		627	528	50	SPC	Lost		Lost "Cabin Fever"		The Dresden Files		Ghost Hunters		Stargate SG-1
		581	566	52	MTV	The City	City Live After	MTV News	Cribs (N)	Bromance (N)		The City	City Live After	MTV Live
		618	524	54	TROP	TV Made, Do It	News Show	Tube Tales	Whatever	Make or Break	TV Made, Do It	Planet Soap	Reality	Deal-No Deal
		603	561	56	FOOD	Chef at Home	Chef at Home	Restaurant Makeover		Food Detective	Road Tasted	Hell's Kitchen		Chef School
		261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		Eyes Down	May-December	McLeod's Daughters (N)		God Bless	God Bless	Poltergeist
		621	527	63	STR	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		TMZ (N)	etalk	First Class All the Way		The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		TMZ
		553	546	65	TRE	Wonder Pets	Nght Grdn	Friend Rabbit	Franklin	Little Bear	Miss Spider	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie Olie	Max & Ruby
		115	711	101	TVA	Les Gags	Bloopers	Céline: les secrets		Dr. House (HDTV) (SC)		TVA 22 heures	(10:45) Denis Lévesque	
		126	730	102	RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal
		526	507	249	VIVA	Judging Amy		Commander In Chief		Commander In Chief		Truth, Duty, Valour		Mediums
		300	601	301	M1	Stargate Atlantis		Sanctuary (Part 1 of 2)		U.S. of Tara	Secret Diary	ZOS Zone of Separation		Atlantis
		305	612	306	PIX	*The Hand*	*Khaled* ★ (2001, Drama), Michael Kanev			*Natural Born Killers* ★★★ (1994, Crime Drama)				*Deep Blue Sea*

critics'corner

First Class All the Way
This new offering chronicles life inside the offices of Sara Duffy, travel planner to the rich and famous. With the economy in the proverbial toilet, many of us can barely afford to drive to work, never mind jet off to the South Pacific or the South of France. America's millionaires can do all the jet-setting they want. 9 PM on STR

House
In this new episode, he and his team try to figure out what's wrong with a man suffering from chronic pain — something House has lived with for years. Foreman and Thirteen deal with their budding relationship, and Cuddy gets a lesson in juggling work and parenthood in the new episode "Painless." 8 PM on GTV, FOX

Two and a Half Men
In this new episode, Alan believes he's the father when Judith reveals she's expecting a baby girl. Charlie suspects he knows the reason Jake has been in an argumentative mood lately in "I Think You Offended Don." 9 PM on CTV, CBS

Boy George is sentenced to 15 months in prison
Former pop star Boy George (real name, George O'Dowd) was sentenced Friday to 15 months in prison after being found guilty for falsely imprisoning and beating a Norwegian male escort, Audun Carlsen. INTOUCHWEEKLY.COM

Celebrity Buzz

Winehouse pleads against divorce

DISPUTE Amy Winehouse has vowed she will not allow her husband to go ahead with his divorce plan, people.com reports.

Blake Fielder-Civil — currently in jail for assault and attempting to pervert the course of justice — has recently instructed a lawyer to file for divorce signalling the end of the couple's tumultuous union.

But the singer is quoted in the U.K. newspaper The Sun promising to fight that.

"I still love my Blake. I won't let him divorce me," she told the newspaper.

And explaining her recent behaviour that has seen her hanging out with a rugby player-turned-actor Josh Bowman, Winehouse, 25, says that doesn't mean she is not going to have "some fun" and a "good time."

She made her comments during her extended vacation in St Lucia. In a break from her partying, she is pictured playing Scrabble as she chats about her life.

And she says she loves Fielder-Civil "because he's just like me."

"Blake is the male version of me. We're perfect for each other. I don't want to go back home to England. I want to wait for Blake here," she is quoted saying.

She says she has not been "doing drugs" and, speaking of Bowman, she added, "Josh was lovely. But it was a holiday thing. I've got my Blake."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Joaquin delivers first music performance

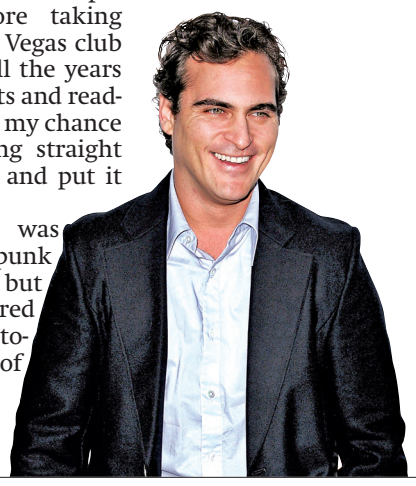
CAREER After announcing his retirement from acting in October, Joaquin Phoenix made his first public foray into the music world Friday, saying he was ready to put his real self out there and not hide behind movie characters, people.com reports.

"This is me saying this is who I am. This is my story," the actor-turned-aspiring rapper told People magazine before taking the stage at Las Vegas club LAVO. "After all the years of reading scripts and reading lines, this is my chance to do something straight from the heart and put it out there.

"When I was young I liked punk rock music but then I discovered rap. I love the storytelling aspect of hip-hop."

Fluttering around the club's catwalk, Phoenix, 34, rapped to the sounds of a drumbeat and encouraged the crowd to dance, people.com reports. While the crowd cheered for the songs, Phoenix said he was prepared for mixed feedback before taking the stage. "Are there people out there who think I'm a joke? I'm sure there will be," he told People magazine.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Action star Craig doesn't like guns

PEOPLE Daniel Craig doesn't like guns, female-first.co.uk is reporting.

The action star admits shooting holds no appeal for him, even though he fires off numerous rounds in his new film Defiance and plays trigger-happy British spy James Bond.

"I wouldn't touch a gun in my everyday life," he said. Craig's co-star Liev Schreiber — who stars opposite Hugh Jackman in upcoming comic-book adaptation Wolverine — mirrored the actor's sentiment.

"I don't enjoy firing guns, either ... even with fake bullets," Schreiber said.

Despite his fear of firearms, Craig has previously insisted he is never worried about performing dangerous stunts as Bond.

He said: "I'm never scared because we rehearse and rehearse. I don't just go stand on a roof and jump off it."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Portia calls marriage "peace"

RELATIONSHIP Five months after her wedding to Ellen DeGeneres, Portia de Rossi is declaring that marriage has "completely changed my life," people.com reports.

"Marriage is a different way of being together," the actress told People magazine on Friday while promoting her upcoming ABC series Better Off Ted.

Even though the couple has been together since 2004, tying the knot strengthened their bond. "There's a peace to (being married) and a sense of togetherness that we just didn't have before. And I didn't even realize it would change as much as it has, but it's so lovely," said the actress.

"It's legal, and it's real, so there's that kind of formality to it that makes it very valid," added de Rossi.

De Rossi also holds out hope that other gay and lesbian couples will ultimately be able to enjoy the right to be legally married, a right that was repealed in California last fall shortly after their nuptials. "Every day of our lives is a protest against the passing of Prop 8," she said. "We're a happily married couple. It was kind of devastating, actually, when it passed."

One element of their post-wedding life de Rossi isn't looking forward to is taking the hot seat as a guest on DeGeneres' daytime talk show, which she will "unfortunately" do to promote her new series.

"I say 'unfortunately' because it just seems like a very awkward kind of interview. She'll make it flawless, and I'm excited to talk about the show," she said. "I just hope she doesn't ask any personal questions. That's off limits."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Mel B collects socks

FASHION Mel B says she collects "silly socks," female-first.co.uk is reporting.

The former Spice Girl — who is the current face of Ultimo lingerie — loves wearing humorous socks to red carpet events and has been obsessed with peculiar footwear since she was a child, the website adds.

"I collect silly socks. I have done since I was 12," she says. "I like wearing them because it doesn't matter where you are. You could be at a premiere or something and you know that you're wearing socks that say the most ridiculous thing on them or have the most ridiculous picture. You can always keep your humour."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Drew admits she can't cook

PEOPLE Drew Barrymore makes her friends cook for her because she is such a bad chef, according to femalefirst.co.uk.

The He's Just Not That Into You actress admits she is clueless in the kitchen and so asks her pals to prepare food for her whenever they visit.

Asked how she coped when people come to dinner, Barrymore is quoted as saying: "I don't cook, I can't cook, and it is really abominable to see me in the kitchen. I order in takeaway food or get my friends to cook because a lot of them are very good."

The 33-year-old actress claims her culinary skills are so poor she can't even make toast.

"I do make scrambled eggs for myself sometimes but I wouldn't even inflict that on anyone else," she said.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Simpson uses perfume on hair

BEAUTY Jessica Simpson sprays her hair with perfume so she doesn't have to wash it, female-first.co.uk reports.

The singer and actress was advised to only shampoo her long blond locks two or three times a month by her hairdresser Ken Paves, so she uses fragrances to cover the smell when her locks need a clean, the website says.

A source said: "Jessica's tresses are often greasy, but she hides it well. She wears hats or reaches for the Hairdo, the clip-on extension line she created with Ken. If her hair starts to smell, she just spritzes it with perfume from her own range."

Jessica is not the only star who shies away from cleansing her hair, the website adds. British actress Emily Mortimer recently revealed she uses dry shampoo because she hates washing her hair.

The Match Point actress admitted: "I'm very unhealthy. I hardly ever get my hair cut and use Batiste Dry Shampoo so I don't have to wash it every day."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Paris targeted by hackers

WEBSITE Paris Hilton has once again been targeted by hackers — her official website has reportedly been infected with a vicious computer virus, female-first.co.uk reports.

The socialite's webpage, ParisHilton.com, is said to have been hit by a malicious program that attaches itself to the computers of anyone visiting the site.

Any fans using the page are at risk of falling victim to the virus, which can steal their online bank details, according to OK! magazine.

Hilton was previously the victim of online crime in 2006.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Today 40% Flurries -7° / -13°

Tuesday Partly cloudy -8° / -12°

Wednesday 70% Light snow -4° / -11°

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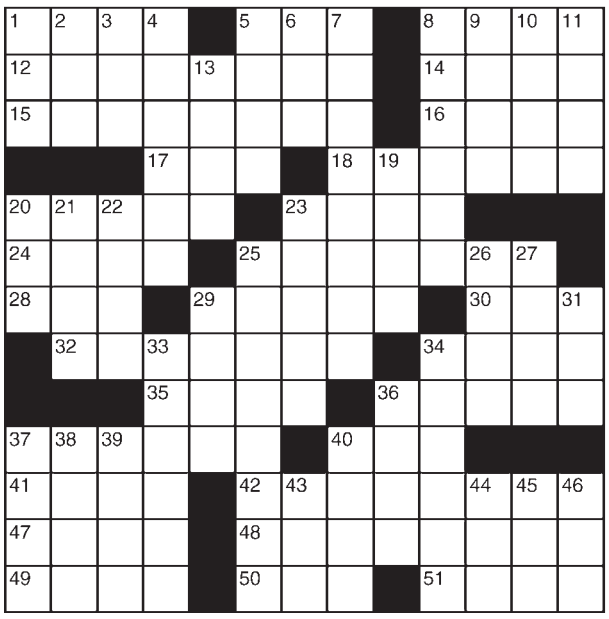

Crossword across

1From a distance
5 One of the Seven Dwarfs
8 Plundered, old-style
12 Florida city
14 Eastern potentate
15 1991 "Top Gun" spoof
16 Workbench attachment
17 Automobile
18 Wrap
20 James — Garfield
23 Smile broadly
24 Follow relentlessly
25 "Henry IV: Part I" role
28 List-ending abbr.
29 Accommodation
30 Lawyer's pay
32 Red phone, maybe
34 Overly studious one
35 Foolproof
36 Waste maker
37 Slam-dances
40 Knight's address
41 Oppositionist
42 Areas of unrest
47 Cicatrix
48 Sorta
49 Superman's alter ego
50 Apiece
51 Info

Crossword down

1 Blond shade
2 — Schwarz
3 Illustrations
4 Impish one
5 Entryway
6 Mel of Cooperstown
7Audiotape
8 Make over
9 Send forth
10 Burbot or turbot
11 Shade provider
13 Counterfeit
19 Cleanse
20 Packed away
21 Dog owner's ordeal
22 Puerto —
23 Carried
25 Descendant's right, often
26 Venusian vessels?
27 Landlord's due
29 Sad
31 — out a living
33 Unisex garb
34 Distorted
36 Snake's sound
37 Fake face
38 Erstwhile
39 Laurel or Musial
40 Celebrity
43 Half and half?
44 Yoko of music
45 Recipe meas.
46 Witness

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

		5	7			2	6	
7						5		1
	8			6				7
	1				2	4		
			4		3			
		6	8				1	
1				7			3	
6		3						9
	4	9			5	6		

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

J	A	B	■	G	O	L	D	■	T	A	R	P
O	W	E	■	E	W	E	R	■	R	O	I	L
B	E	R	K	E	L	E	Y	■	U	N	T	O
■	■	M	I	S	S	■	■	P	I	E	T	Y
C	H	U	T	E	■	H	U	E	S	■	■	■
H	I	D	E	■	R	E	S	E	M	B	L	E
A	R	A	■	B	O	X	E	R	■	E	E	L
D	E	S	P	I	S	E	D	■	C	R	A	B
■	■	■	S	L	E	D	■	P	O	L	K	A
P	A	Y	E	E	■	■	D	E	L	I	■	■
E	S	A	U	■	B	E	R	N	A	N	K	E
R	I	N	D	■	A	R	E	A	■	E	O	N
M	A	K	O	■	Y	A	W	L	■	R	I	D

3	1	6	5	7	8	4	2	9
2	4	5	1	9	6	8	3	7
7	9	8	2	3	4	6	5	1
9	6	4	8	1	3	5	7	2
1	2	7	4	6	5	3	9	8
8	5	3	9	2	7	1	6	4
4	3	2	6	8	9	7	1	5
6	8	9	7	5	1	2	4	3
5	7	1	3	4	2	9	8	6

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:

Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min .....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day

Chicken with mushroom sauce

INGREDIENTS:

1 tbsp (15 mL) olive oil
1 1/2 tbsp (20 mL) butter
4 boneless, skinless, chicken breasts, about 6 oz (175 g) each
Salt and black pepper
4 scallions
3/4 lb (375g) button mushrooms
1 tbsp (15 mL) plain flour
2/3 cup (150 mL) chicken stock
2/3 cup (150 mL) light cream

METHOD:

1. Preheat oven to low setting to keep chicken warm later. Put olive oil and butter into frying pan and heat until sizzling hot. Meanwhile, season chicken breasts on both sides with salt and black pepper.
2. Add chicken to pan and cook 2–3 minutes per side until golden, then reduce heat to low, cover and continue cooking 8–10 minutes, turning once.
3. Meanwhile, trim, rinse and thinly slice scallions. Clean and thinly slice mushrooms.
4. When chicken's juices run clear, transfer breasts to plate, cover and keep warm.
5. Add scallions and button mushrooms to pan, spread out and fry over moderate heat 3–4 minutes, or until softened.
6. Stir flour into pan and cook 1 minute, then add stock and bring to a boil, stirring constantly. Cook mushroom sauce 2–3 minutes, then reduce heat, add cream and stir. Return chicken breasts and juices to pan and heat through 2–3 minutes more.
7. Put cooked chicken breasts onto warmed plates, spoon over mushroom sauce, and serve them immediately.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Take a break to reorganize. Spend time with those who consider security first. A headache goes away when you make your wishes known.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
A lazy admirer will argue over personal beliefs. A righteous man talks of love. Your passionate wishes can come true.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Someone will find the money for travel plans. Surrender to a winning argument. Forgive and forget after casting off your inhibitions.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
You'll benefit from a time-out. Refuse to attend a painful meeting. A parent gets a monstrosity out of the way.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
A traitor will encourage a coward. You'll smile while undergoing an indignity. You can decide that a compromise is for the best.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Provide support for someone who is forthright. People are reluctant to socialize. A superficial person is excited by a compliment.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
A small man with good manners is due to arrive. A surprise leads you into a good situation. Be calm when there's absurdity all around.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
A brave guy creates a convivial atmosphere. Help someone to cherish a marvellous moment. A woman's confidence gets boosted.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
A handsome guy is used to cheating. The true cost of a hidden agenda is discovered. Too much daydreaming causes chaos.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
A woman is wrestling with hostility toward a rival. You'll have the solution if you're being positive. An unfortunate leader will not accept blame.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
Don't get on people's nerves by being pushy. A heroic deed creates a spectacular change. Prepare to investigate a crazy idea.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Somebody is too unpredictable for words. Demand privacy when a loss of equanimity takes place. A suffering manipulator won't accomplish anything.

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